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SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1943

(1)

No. 803 41

WILSON McCARTHY AND HENRY SWAN, TRUSTEES OF
THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD COM-
PANY, A CORPORATION, AND THE DENVER & RIO GRANDE
WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY, A CORPORATION,

Petitioners,

vs.

E. E. BRUNER.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF UTAH AND
BRIEF IN SUPPORT THEREOF.

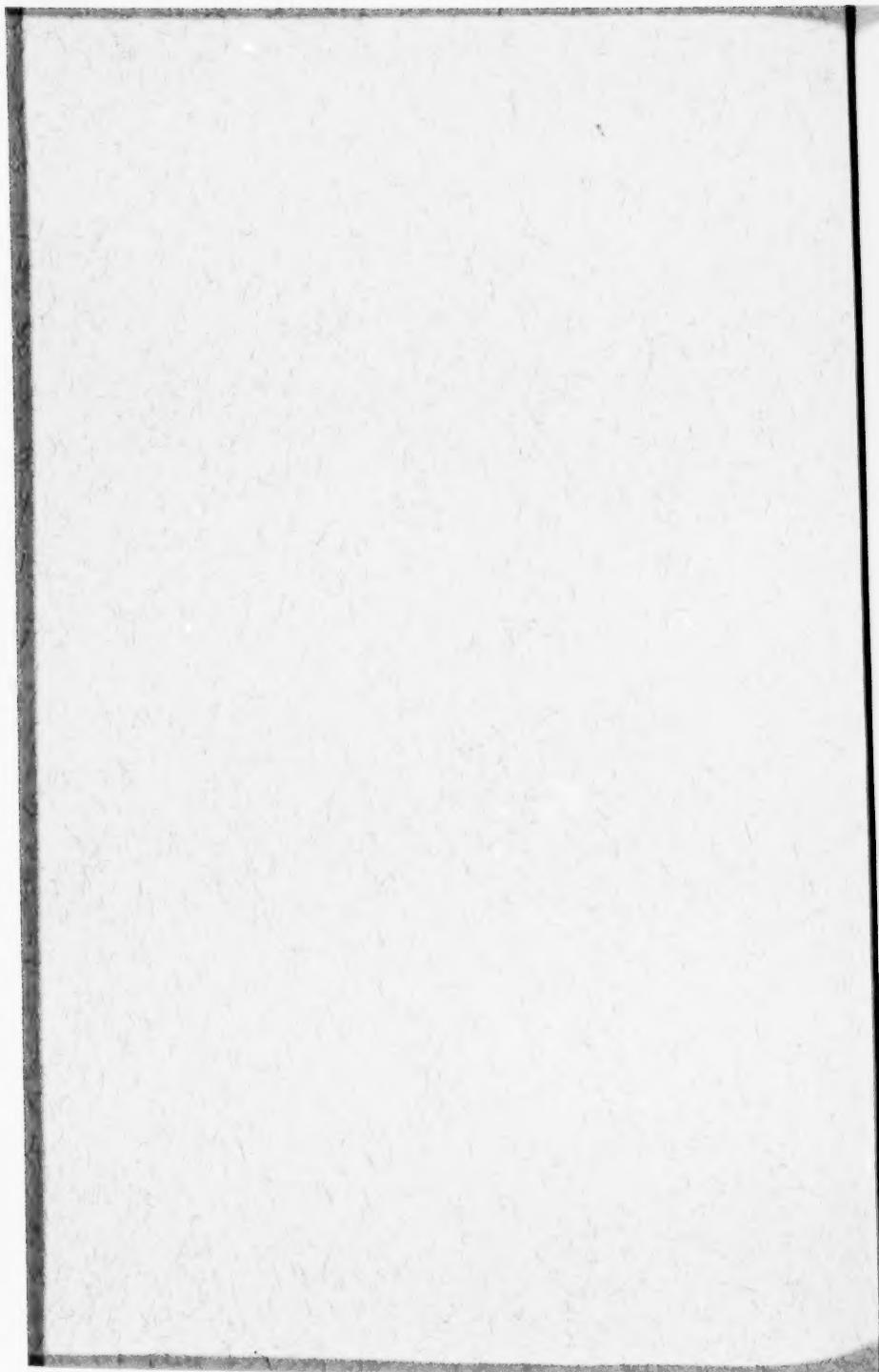
P. T. FARNSWORTH, JR.,

W. Q. VAN COTT,

Counsel for Petitioners.

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INDEX.

SUBJECT INDEX.

Page

Petition for writ of certiorari:

Summary and short statement of matters involved	1
Jurisdictional statement	2
Questions presented	3
Reasons relied on for allowance of writ	3
Brief in support of petition for writ of certiorari	5
Opinion of courts below	5
Grounds on which jurisdiction of Supreme Court of the United States is Invoked	5
Statement of the case	5
Specification of errors	8
Argument:	
I. The majority opinion of the Supreme Court of Utah erred in holding as matter of law that respondent was not guilty of contributory negligence	8
II. The majority opinion of the Supreme Court of Utah erred in holding that petitioners were guilty of negligence as matter of law	15
Conclusion	18

STATUTES CITED.

Section 237 of the Judicial Code, as amended, subparagraph (b), Section 1, Chapter 229, 43 Stat. 937, Title 28, U. S. C. Section 344	2, 5
Act of February 13, 1925, c. 229, Section 8; 43 Stat. 940; 28 U. S. C. Section 350	5
45 U. S. C. Sections 51-59; 35 Stat. 65, as amended; 36 Stat. 291, and 53 Stat. 1404	3, 5

CASES CITED.

	Page
<i>Atlantic Coast Line R. Co. v. Davis</i> , 279 U. S. 34, 73 L. Ed. 601, 49 Sup. Ct. 210	12
<i>Bailey v. Central Vermont Ry., Inc.</i> , 319 U. S. 54, 87 L. Ed. 446, 63 Sup. Ct. 444	2
<i>Brady v. Southern Railway Co.</i> , No. 26, October Term, 1943, decided December 20, 1943, 64 Sup. Ct. 232	2
<i>Bruner v. McCarthy, et al.</i> , 142 Pae. (2d) 649	5
<i>Owens v. Union Pacific R. Co.</i> , 319 U. S. 715, 87 L. Ed. 1221, 63 Sup. Ct. 1271	2, 7, 8
<i>Tiller v. Atlantic Coast Line Co.</i> , 318 U. S. 54, 87 L. Ed. 446, 63 Sup. Ct. 444	2

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Petitioners.

vs.

E. E. BRUNER.

Respondent.

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF UTAH AND
BRIEF IN SUPPORT THEREOF.**

*To the Honorable Chief Justice and Associate Justices of
the Supreme Court of the United States:*

The petition of Wilson McCarthy and Henry Swan,
Trustees of The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad
Company, and The Denver and Rio Grande Western Rail-
road Company respectfully shows:

Summary and Short Statement of Matter Involved.

The Supreme Court of Utah, by a divided opinion, in a
case arising under the Federal Employers Liability Act,

has held as matter of law that plaintiff and respondent, E. E. Bruner (hereinafter called "Bruner") was not guilty of contributory negligence and that defendants and petitioners (hereinafter called the "Railroad") were guilty of negligence, which was a proximate cause of the accident.

The Railroad contends that the evidence and tendencies of the proof were conflicting and such that the issues of negligence on the part of the Railroad and contributory negligence on the part of Bruner should not have been decided as matter of law and that to do so violated the principles of law announced by this Court in *Tiller v. Atlantic Coast Line R. Co.*, 318 U. S. 54, 87 L. Ed. 446, 63 S. Ct. 444; *Bailey v. Central Vermont Ry. Inc.*, 319 U. S. 350, 87 L. Ed. 1030, 63 S. Ct. 1062; *Owens v. Union Pacific R. Co.*, 319 U. S. 715, 87 L. Ed. 1221, 63 S. Ct. 1271, and *Brady v. Southern Railway Co.*, No. 26, Oct. Term, 1943, decided December 20, 1943, 64 S. Ct. 232. In those cases this Court held that questions should not be decided as matter of law where the evidence and tendencies of the proof are conflicting and that to withdraw them is violative of the rights of the employees or their dependents. It is submitted that the rule must work both ways and that it is also violative of the employer's rights to decide such questions as matter of law.

Jurisdictional Statement.

(a) Jurisdiction to grant this petition is sustained by Section 237 of the Judicial Code as amended, subparagraph (b), Section 1, Chapter 229, 43 Statutes 937, Title 28, U. S. C. Section 344.

(b) The statutes of the United States applied by the

Supreme Court of Utah are 45 U. S. C. Sections 51-59; 35 Stat. 65, as amended; 36 Stat. 291, and 53 Stat. 1404.

(e) The judgment of the Supreme Court of Utah was rendered on October 25, 1943 (R. 117). The petition for rehearing was denied on December 27, 1943 (R. 117). This petition for certiorari was filed March 18, 1944.

Questions Presented.

The questions presented are whether the Supreme Court of Utah properly applied the United States statutes commonly called the Federal Employers Liability Act, or whether the application made by it is inconsistent with the applicable decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, in that the Utah Court has held, by a divided court, in a case wherein the evidence and tendencies of the proof are conflicting, as matter of law, that Bruner was not guilty of contributory negligence and as matter of law that the Railroad was guilty of contributory negligence.

Reasons Relied On for Allowance of Writ.

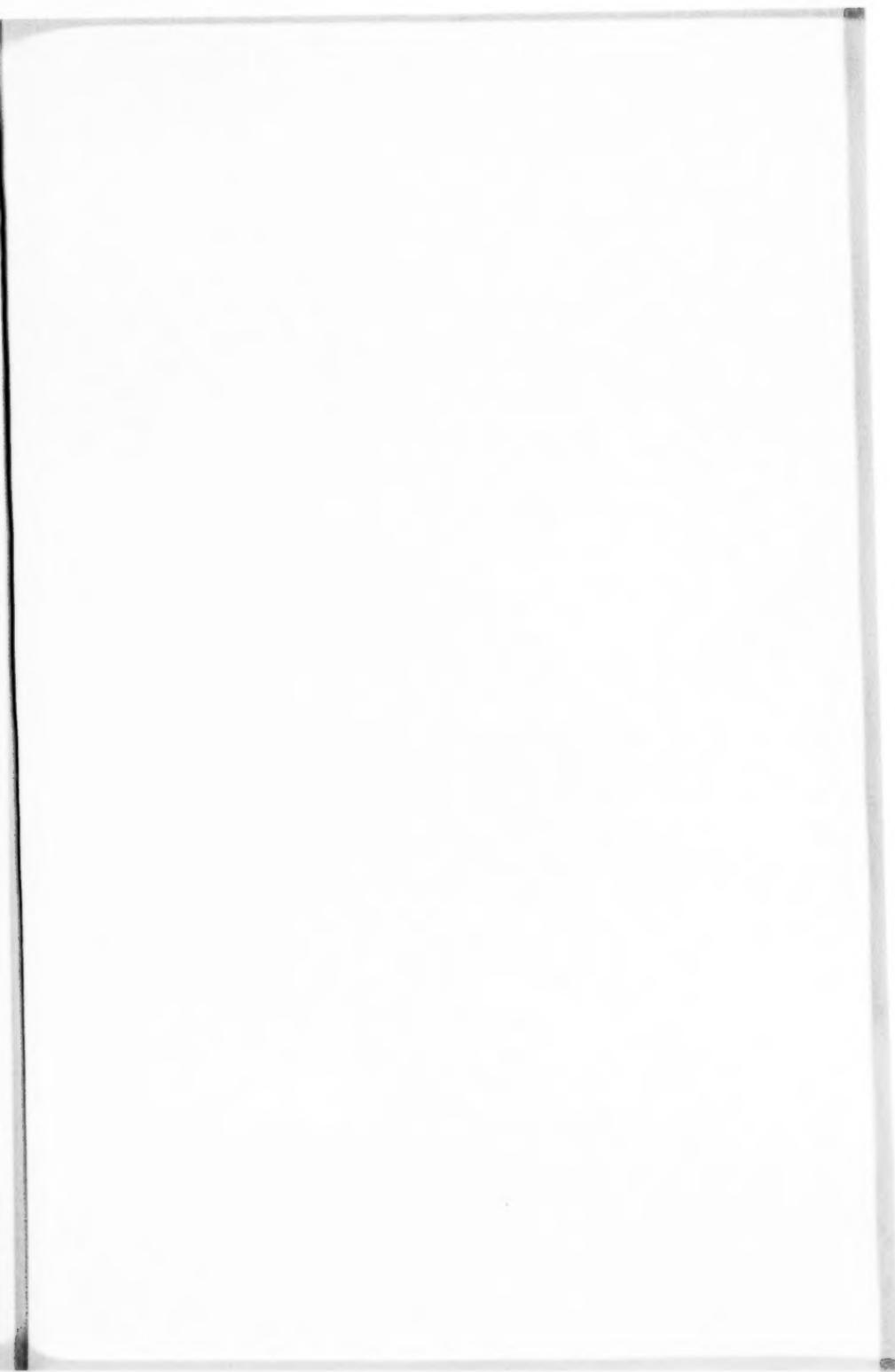
The Supreme Court of Utah has decided a question of substance and importance in a way not in accord with the applicable decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States. If issues of negligence and contributory negligence are to be withdrawn from the consideration of juries under facts and circumstances such as are involved in this case, then a vast number of similar issues of negligence and contributory negligence will be withdrawn from juries at the instance of plaintiffs and defendants in cases arising under the Federal Employers Liability Act.

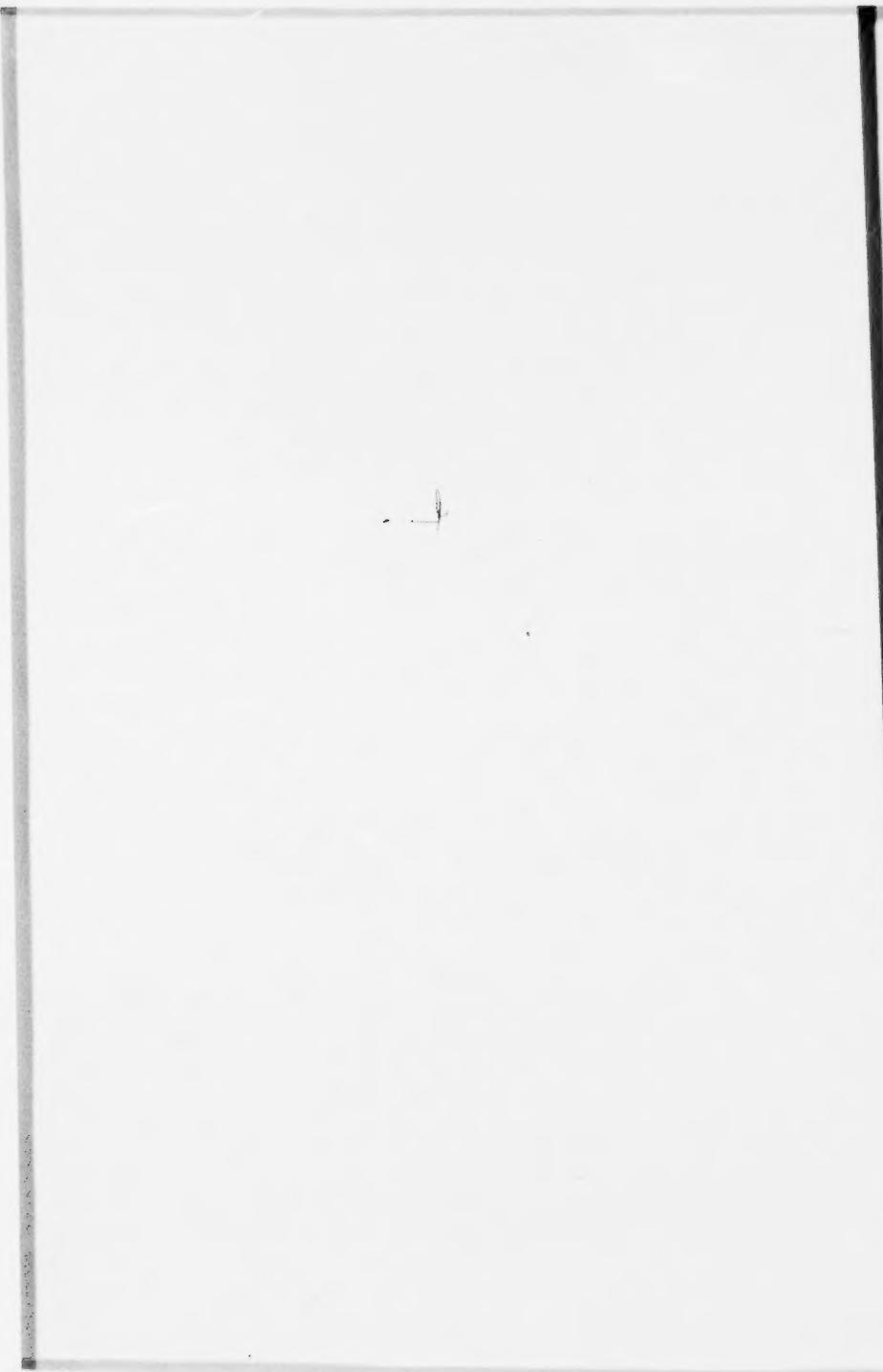
WHEREFORE, your petitioners pray that a Writ of Certiorari be issued by this Court to the Supreme Court of

Utah to the end that the judgment of said Court may be reviewed by this Honorable Court.

WILSON McCARTHY AND HENRY SWAN, TRUSTEES OF THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY, A CORPORATION, AND THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY, A CORPORATION,

By P. T. FARNSWORTH, JR.,
WALDMAN Q. VAN COTT,
1311 Walker Bank Building,
Salt Lake City, Utah,
Their Counsel.





BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI.

Opinion of Courts Below.

The verdict of the jury and the judgment of the court pursuant thereto were rendered on June 6, 1942 (R. 9-10). The opinion of the Supreme Court of Utah is set forth at R. 103-117, is not yet reported in the Utah reports, but appears at 142 Pae. (2d) 649.

Grounds on Which Jurisdiction of Supreme Court of the United States Is Invoked.

The judgment of the Supreme Court of Utah was rendered on October 25, 1943 (R. 117). Petition for rehearing was denied on December 27, 1943 (R. 117). Petition for writ of certiorari was filed on March 18, 1944. The judgment of the Supreme Court of Utah is based upon its application of the United States statute commonly called the Federal Employers Liability Act, 45 U. S. C. Secs. 51-59; 35 Stat. 65, as amended; 36 Stat. 291, and 53 Stat. 1404. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the United States is invoked under Section 237 of the Judicial Code, as amended by Act of February 13, 1925, c. 229, Sec. 1; 43 Stat. 937; 28 U. S. C. Sec. 344, and the Act of February 13, 1925, c. 229, Sec. 8; 43 Stat. 940; 28 U. S. C. Sec. 350.

Statement of the Case.

Bruner, an experienced engine hostler and hostler's helper (R. 16, 20), recovered judgment for \$30,000.00 against the Railroad under the Federal Employers Liability Act on account of the loss of his right leg below the knee resulting from an accident in the course of his employment as hostler helper in Grand Junction, Colorado, on December 1, 1940 (R. 1-8). Bruner and his boss (R.

27, 91), Hostler Colosimo, were coaling two engines at the coal chute (R. 33). The engines were headed East, No. 1182 in the lead and No. 1149 in the rear (R. 28, 31). They were coupled together (R. 27). The coupling and relative positions of the two engines are shown in Exhibit 3 (R. 62A, admitted in evidence R. 62), and on Appendix A of this brief. The coal chute and track are shown on Exhibit B (R. 36A, admitted in evidence R. 37), and Exhibit E, (R. 40A, admitted in evidence R. 40).

Prior to the engines being moved to the coal chute Colosimo and Bruner discussed the movements to be made and the work to be done by each of them upon the engines (R. 31). Bruner knew that the engines were to be removed to the coal chute and that Colosimo would coal 1149 and Bruner would coal 1182 (R. 31). Colosimo moved the two engines, using the power of 1149, to the coal chute and spotted 1149 under the chute for coal loading (R. 82). While Colosimo was placing the coal in 1149 Bruner checked the fire in 1182 (R. 52-54). Having checked the fire in engine 1182 when the two engines were stopped, Bruner's next duty was to get to the top of the tender of 1182 in order to spot it at the coal chute and put coal into it (R. 41).

Colosimo, who was boss (R. 27, 91), told Bruner, who understood that he must do as Colosimo told him (R. 27), to stay on 1182 and coal it after Colosimo had coaled 1149 (R. 81). Bruner nevertheless, without telling Colosimo, dismounted from 1182, walked to the back of its tender and attempted to cross over the draw bars between the two engines for the purpose, as he himself testified, of getting on top of the tender of 1182 (R. 41). As Bruner was crossing over the draw bars Colosimo started the engines and Bruner was thrown to the tracks where the wheels of 1182 passed over his leg (R. 41). There is no evidence, suggestion or contention in the record that Colosimo knew that Bruner was between the engines.

As is more particularly shown in the argument, Bruner, who was in the cab of 1182, had several safe ways to get to the top of the tender of 1182 to spot and coal it without clambering over the draw bars or even dismounting from the engine. Bruner did not avail himself of any safe course, but chose to clamber over the draw bars without benefit of steps or handholds. In that precarious position a slight movement of the engine dislodged him (R. 41).

On appeal to the Supreme Court of Utah the Railroad assigned as error (R. 103) that the court improperly instructed the jury in Instruction No. 6 (R. 11) that Bruner was not guilty of contributory negligence and that the court in Instructions 9 (R. 11, 12) and 20 (R. 12) improperly instructed the jury in failing to tell them to make proportionate deductions in damages if they found that Bruner was guilty of contributory negligence. The Supreme Court of Utah disposed of these assignments by reaching the conclusion as matter of law that Bruner was not guilty of contributory negligence (R. 107).

The Railroad also assigned as error (R. 108) that Instruction No. 6 (R. 10-11) improperly instructed the jury that Bruner was within the protection of two safety rules and that the court improperly instructed the jury in regard to safety rules not involved in the case. Those rules were as follows:

Safety Rules, Sec. 2057, provided:

Engine bell or whistle warning must be given before engines are moved, then wait at least one minute.

Section 30 provided:

The bell must be rung when an engine is about to move and while approaching and passing stations, tunnels, snow sheds and public crossing at grade.

The Utah Court stated (R. 108) that this Court considered the latter of these two rules in *Owens v. U. P. R. Co.*,

319 U. S. 715, 87 L. Ed. 1221, 63 S. Ct. 1271, but did not decide whether or not it was applicable to yard movements. The Utah Court stated that there was considerable doubt that these rules had any application to the case at bar, but disposed of the Assignment of Error by holding that it was not prejudicial error in any event because the Railroad was guilty of negligence as matter of law (R. 108).

Thus the Supreme Court of Utah has held as matter of law that on the evidence introduced the Trial Court would have been justified in peremptorily instructing the jury, thus eliminating those issues from the trial by jury, that the Railroad was guilty of negligence and that Bruner was not guilty of contributory negligence.

Specification of Errors.

The Supreme Court of Utah erred in holding as matter of law that Respondent was not guilty of contributory negligence.

The Supreme Court of Utah erred in holding as matter of law that Petitioners were guilty of negligence.

ARGUMENT.

I.

The majority opinion of the Supreme Court of Utah erred in holding as matter of law that respondent was not guilty of contributory negligence.

The majority opinion of the Utah Court at R. 105 states:

* * * In order for the plaintiff to take coal on Engine 1182 it was necessary for him to be on top of the tender. There were several methods by which he could have climbed there. *At the point where he was standing at the rear of the north side of the tender there was no ladder leading to the top of the tender.* However, immediately across from this point on the rear of the

south side of the tender there was such a ladder. *To reach this ladder there were at least two direct methods he could have used.* One would have been to cross over the pilot (a flat platform on the front of the engine) on Engine 1149. The other way, the way he chose to go, was to climb over the draw bar between the two engines which were coupled together.

* * * It was the plaintiff's duty to get on top of the tender on Engine 1182. *He chose a manner of getting there which is not shown by the evidence to be either unusual or dangerous.* In fact, the only evidence is that which he gave that he had often used this route and that it was a common practice among yardmen to do so. (R. 106)

* * * *While it may be, as defendants argue in their brief, that the manner chosen was highly dangerous, there is no evidence to show this. We must conclude that the record does not show contributory negligence.* (R. 106-107) (Italics added)

The majority opinion of the Utah Court, when it reached the question of whether Bruner chose an unusual and dangerous way of getting on top of the tender of Engine 1182, placed Bruner at the rear of the north side of the tender. After so placing him, it points out that there was no ladder at that corner leading to the top of the tender and concludes that it was therefore necessary for him to cross from the north side to the south side. But Bruner did not start from the rear of the north side of the tender. He came to that point only enroute from the cab of Engine 1182 to the top of the tender (R. 41). There was no reason for Bruner to be on the north side of the engine or at the rear of the north side of the engine. He was in the cab of the engine when his duty required him to get to the top of the tender (R. 41).

At the time the two engines commenced backing from the sand house to the coal chute Bruner was on the south

running board of Engine 1182 (R. 31-32). Bruner then moved back along the south running board through the door into the cab of the engine and when the engine stopped he was in the cab of Engine 1182 (R. 41, 60). Being in the cab of the engine when it stopped he checked the fire, (R. 41), his next duty was to get to the top of the tender of 1182 in order to take coal from the coal chute (R. 41).

There were five different ways for him to reach his objective.

First. Without dismounting from the engine he could have moved straight back from the cab climbing up the coal gate of the tender, which is directly back of the gangway. (R. 99). This was the most direct and easiest way of reaching his objective.

At R. 100, Colosimo testified as follows:

A. Yes sir. Some of them—they have so many ways of working—*some of them crawl up over the gates and get into them.*

For the better understanding of the court there is set forth in Appendix A a rough sketch illustrative generally of Engine 1182 with its tender, coupled to Engine 1149, and marked thereon by different types of lines are the various methods of moving from the cab to the tender. This sketch is not in evidence. It is illustrative of the situation involved which is established by the evidence. The solid black line marked No. 1 shows the direct route back from the cab up the coal gate on to the top of the tender.

Second. without dismounting from the engine he could move from the cab through the door leading to the running board and thence over the top of the cab to the tender. It was customary practice for enginemen to move from the running board over the cab on to the tender. At R. 85 Colosimo testified as follows:

Q. How did the hostler's helper get onto the tank

to take coal on that front locomotive, after moving from the sand house?

A. Most of them are over the cab into the tender.

Q. How do they get over the cab?

A. They climb up on the boiler and just step right up on the cab there.

This second method, although more circuitous than the first, did not involve dismounting from the engine. In Appendix A it is shown by the dotted line marked No. 2.

Third. Bruner could have dismounted from the engine on the engineer's side, which was the same side on which the ladder going up the rear of the tank is placed, walk back on the ground along the right side of the engine to the ladder, climb the ladder on to the tender.¹ This was not as easy as the first or second methods, but it did not involve dismounting from the engine on the wrong side and then crawling over the draw bar. The third way is shown on Appendix A by the line of dashes marked No. 3.

Fourth. The fourth way, and that chosen by Bruner, was to dismount from the engine on the left side, which is the side away from that on which the ladder goes up the back of the tank, walk back along the wrong side of the engine to the north rear corner and then clamber over the draw bar. This course is shown on Appendix A by the line of crosses marked No. 4.² It was only after he chose this way and reached the north rear corner of the tank that he came enroute to the place where the majority opinion of the Utah Court places him when it describes his choice of routes preliminary to its conclusion that his choice was neither unusual nor dangerous.

¹ As shown on the rough sketch, this ladder is nearer the center of the rear of 1182 than it is in fact, as shown on Exhibit A (R. 34A, introduced in evidence R. 34), and Exhibit F, (R. 74A, introduced in evidence R. 74).

² The line of crosses on this rough sketch can be seen through the tender of 1182, indicating Bruner's movement on the north or left hand side of 1182.

Fifth. Even after reaching the rear of the tender on the north side and deciding to cross thru two live engines, Bruner had a perfectly safe way open to him, as is shown by Exhibit 3 (R. 62A, introduced in evidence at R. 62). This was to mount the step on the north side of the pilot of Engine No. 1149, step up to the pilot deck, take hold of the circular handhold around the front of the boiler of 1149, cross the deck, step down to the footstep on the south side, step across to the south footstep at the rear of the tender of 1182 and climb up the ladder at the rear of 1182. Exhibit 3 clearly shows all of this. The front of 1149 is designed for such a maneuver, as shown by the circular handhold. The rear of 1182 is not so designed, as is shown by the absence of a horizontal handhold. This way is shown on Appendix A by the line of alternate crosses and dashes marked No. 5.

It is true that Bruner could, within the realm of reason, choose his course, but that choice should not be a capricious, whimsical or outrageous choice. It is elementary in the law of principal and agent that although an agent may have latitude in choice of methods, yet he may not choose an outrageous method. If he does and it is dangerous, he is guilty of negligence. It is well established that it is negligence for an agent to chose a dangerous way of doing a thing when safe ways are open to him. *Atlantic Coast Line R. Co. v. Davis*, 279 U. S. 34, 73 L. Ed. 601, 49 S. Ct. 210.

The evidence shows that Bruner chose an unusual and dangerous way. Exhibit A. (R. 34A) shows the rear end of the tender of Engine No. 1182. The distance between the rails on which it stands is four feet eight and one-half inches, standard gauge. It can be seen from the picture that the tender overhangs the rail approximately two feet on each side. The ladder on the right hand side overhangs the right hand rail. The only handhold for Bruner to use

in mounting from the ground on the left hand side to the cross beam is vertical and extends downward to the left of the left rear corner of the tender of 1182. The distance from that handhold to the ladder is apparently between five and six feet.

It can be seen from Exhibit F (R. 74A) that there is no horizontal handhold crossing from the ladder, on the right, to the vertical handhold on the left, designed for the use of men crossing over the draw bar or on the cross beam. The only horizontal handhold on the rear of the tender of 1182 is that which is shown on Exhibits A and F (R. 34A and 74A) crossing immediately above the cross beam. There are two rods shown crossing immediately above the cross beam. The lower one is the rod which controls the pin lift lever. (R. 61) Immediately above that is the handhold provided for trainmen standing on the footsteps at the rear of 1182 (61-62).

It is not clear from Bruner's testimony whether he moved from the north to the south side by moving along the cross beam immediately under the pin lift lever rod, shown on Exhibit A (R. 34A) and Exhibit F. (R. 74A), or by crawling over the draw bar from one footstep to the other at the rear end of the tender of 1182. Examination of Exhibits 3, A and F (R. 62A, 34A and 74A) will demonstrate that either way is awkward, clumsy and dangerous. Also they disclose that such movement is not contemplated by the design of the safety appliance handholds.

Inspection of Exhibit 3 (R. 62A) shows that Bruner's evidence, that it is common practice to move from one side of 1182 to the other along the cross beam, is ridiculous and not entitled to serious consideration. It can be seen from Exhibit 3 that there is very little space, certainly not enough for a human foot clothed in a shoe to rest on that beam between the handhold and the rear end of the tank. It can be seen that a person attempting to move across that beam

would be entangled in the pin lift lever rod and the handhold. It is evident that it would be a most clumsy, awkward and dangerous movement. It cannot be contended that, in moving across on the cross beam, safety can be secured by holding on to the handhold provided for men riding the footsteps of 1182. A man attempting so to do would be leaning over in a position such that his hands would be just above his feet.

If Bruner's evidence means that he crawled over the draw bar from one footstep to the other, Exhibits 3, A and F show also that it was awkward, clumsy and dangerous. The draw bar would be almost waist high. It is also quite wide. Such a crossing is obviously not contemplated by the design of the safety appliance handholds. Handholds are provided wherever railroad men are supposed to hold on to prevent that very result. If Engine 1182 had been designed with the intention that trainmen would cross from the left hand side to the right hand side, along the cross beam, there would have been a horizontal handhold at a suitable height to hold on to while so doing. Inspection of all of the pictures in evidence shows handholds wherever trainmen are supposed to hold on engines. Thus Exhibit 1 (R. 56A) shows the handhold along the boiler to support enginemen moving on the running boards. The front of Engine 1182 shown on Exhibit 1 shows a handhold around the circumference of the front of the boiler and also a handhold across the pilot. Exhibit F shows a handhold at the right rear corner of the tank and at the left rear corner of the tank and a horizontal handhold running across the tank immediately above the cross beam. There is, however, no horizontal handhold shown across the top of the tank at a height designed to be used by a man moving across the rear of the tank. And the Safety Appliance Act and Rules and Regulations do not prescribe any such handhold.

It is submitted that Exhibits 3, A and F furnish the required evidence and show that it was unusual and dangerous for Bruner to cross either along the cross beam or clamber over the draw bar, and that the evidence demonstrates that Bruner chose a dangerous way when safe ways were available and thus under the law announced by this Court there was substantial evidence from which the jury would have been justified in finding that Bruner was guilty of contributory negligence.

II.

The majority opinion of the Supreme Court of Utah erred in holding that petitioners were guilty of negligence as matter of law.

The majority opinion at R. 110 concludes that the evidence on negligence is such that the trial court could have directed a verdict for plaintiff. If there is evidence from which the jury could find that Colosimo instructed Bruner to stay on the engine and that it was Bruner's duty to obey, then it cannot be said as matter of law that Colosimo owed Bruner the duty to anticipate that Bruner would disobey that order and that Colosimo's failure so to do constitutes negligence. It is submitted that there was such evidence.

Colosimo was in charge of the activities of Bruner. He was the boss (R. 27). Bruner recognized that. At R. 27 he said:

Q. Who is the boss?

A. The hostler, always, with the hostler helper. The hostler helper has to do whatever the hostler tells him to do.

Q. You may state whether or not you worked under the direction of Mr. Colosimo during this shift?

A. Yes, whatever he told me to do, that is what I did, and my business to do.

At R. 50 he said:

Q. That was a part of your duties?

A. My duty was to do whatever he told me to.

At R. 81 Colosimo testified as follows:

I told him for him to sand 1182 and *stay on her and coal her*, and at the same time I would take care of the 1149.

He also testified at R. 102 as follows:

A. I just told him to stay on the 1182. That is what I told him, just to stay on the 1182, and I would take care of the 1149.

On recross examination Colosimo testified as follows:

By Mr. Black:

Q. All you meant by that was that you would take care of 1149, and Bruner would take care of 1182?

A. Yes sir (R. 102).

Can it be said that merely because Colosimo on recross examination testified that all he meant was that Bruner would take care of 1182 negatives the plain meaning of what he told Bruner? Colosimo told Bruner to stay on 1182 and coal it. Bruner's counsel asked Colosimo what he meant. Of course, what he meant by the words he spoke is immaterial. The material thing is the normal meaning of the words. The Utah Court used Colosimo's statement as to what he meant to render completely impotent the ordinary meaning of what he said and concluded that therefore as a matter of law Colosimo did not direct Bruner to stay on the engine (R. 106). Bruner himself did not take this view of the evidence that Colosimo directed him to stay on the engine, because he denied that Colosimo so instructed him (R. 70-71). Thus there was a conflict in the evidence as to

whether Colosimo instructed Bruner to stay on the engine. Colosimo said "Yes". Bruner said "No". The holding of the majority opinion of the Utah Court is that even though the jury might find that Colosimo did say, "*stay on the engine and coal it*", this should be taken by Bruner to mean only "*coal it*" because on cross examination Colosimo said that was all he meant and, therefore, the jury should not be permitted to find that it meant anything else.

This attributes to Colosimo's statement the effect of an admission by defendants. It is as if the court reasoned, "Colosimo states that what he said meant only, 'coal it', therefore defendants are bound by it." This is unwarranted. No foundation was laid constituting Colosimo's statement an admission.

The majority opinion attributes to the failure of Colosimo to give a signal the same absolute liability that the statute attributes to a failure to comply with the requirements of the safety appliance law such as a failure to have a hand-hold or footstep or power brakes, etc. But with rare exception it is for the jury to say whether certain conduct is not up to the standard of an ordinarily prudent person and therefore negligence.

Tiller v. Atlantic Coast Line R. Co., supra;

Bailey v. Central Vermont Ry., Inc., supra;

Owens v. Union Pacific R. Co., supra;

Brady v. Southern Railway Co., supra.

As shown, the jury could have found that Colosimo told Bruner to stay on 1182 and coal it. Also, as shown under I, Bruner could get from the engine to the top of the tender without getting off the engine. He could have "stayed on the engine" and also "coaled it."

It is submitted that this evidence alone should preclude holding that defendants were guilty of negligence as matter of law.

Conclusion.

Petitioners pray that this Honorable Court grant this petition for writ of certiorari.

Respectfully submitted,

P. T. FARNSWORTH, JR.,

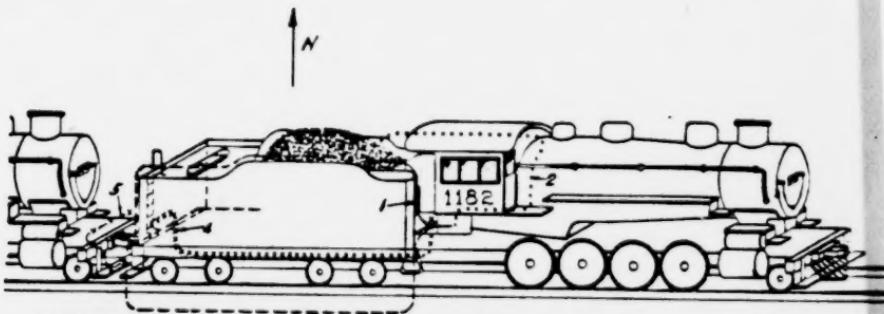
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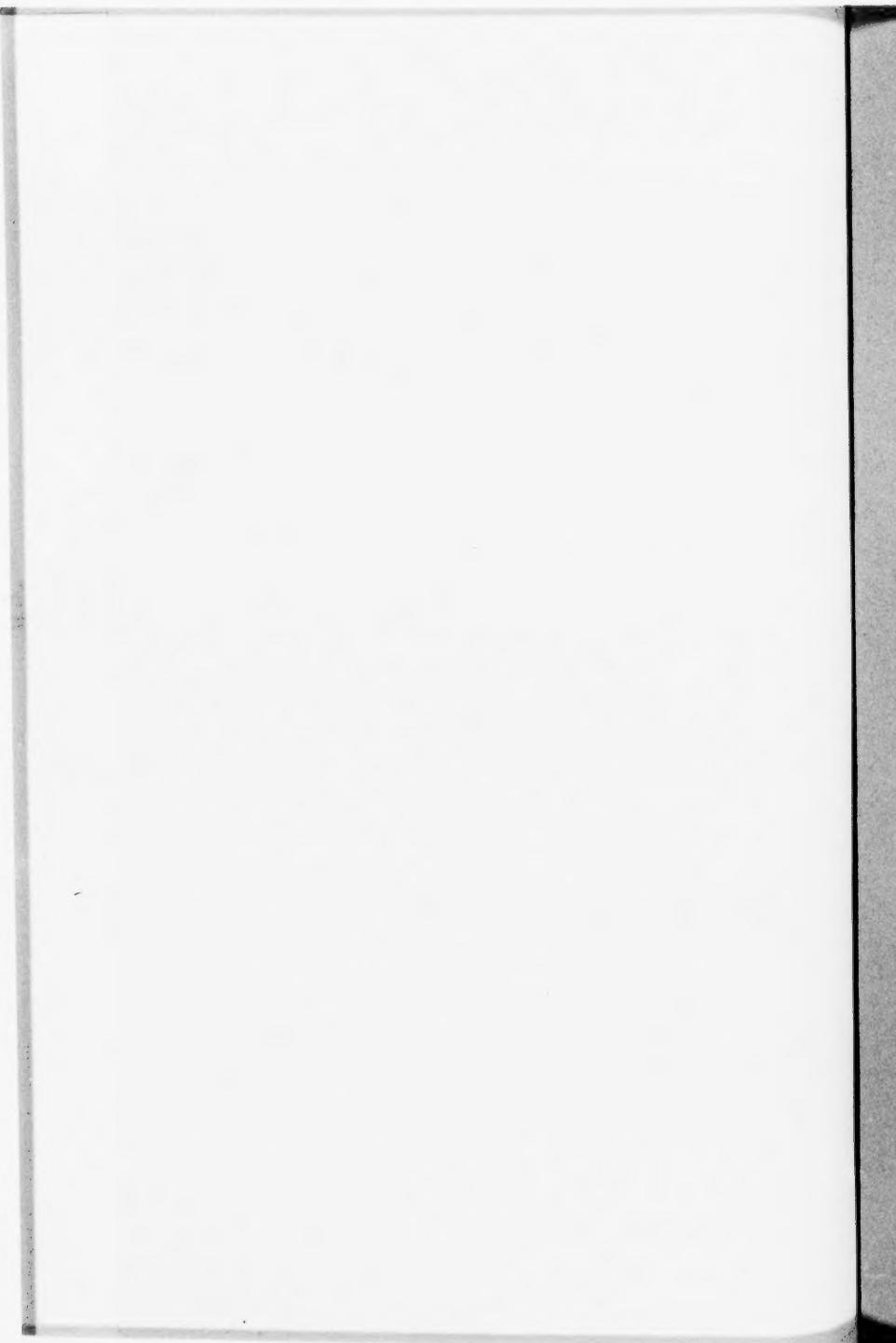


Appendix-A



-LEGEND-

- Straight back from cab, up coal ladder to top of tender
- Through front door of cab, over top of cab, to top of tender
- Dismount from cab to ground on engineer's side, walk to rear of tender and climb ladder on engineer's side to top of tender.
- **** Dismount from cab to ground on fireman's side walk to rear of tender, climb over the draw bars to engineer's side and climb ladder to top of tender.
- - - Same as No 4 except across the pilot platform of No 1149 instead of over the draw bars.



FILED

APR 24 1944

CHARLES ELMORE CROPLEY
CLERK

(2)

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES**OCTOBER TERM, 1943**

No. 303 41

WILSON McCARTHY AND HENRY SWAN, TRUSTEES OF
THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD COM-
PANY, A CORPORATION, AND THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE
WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY, A CORPORATION,

Petitioners,

vs.

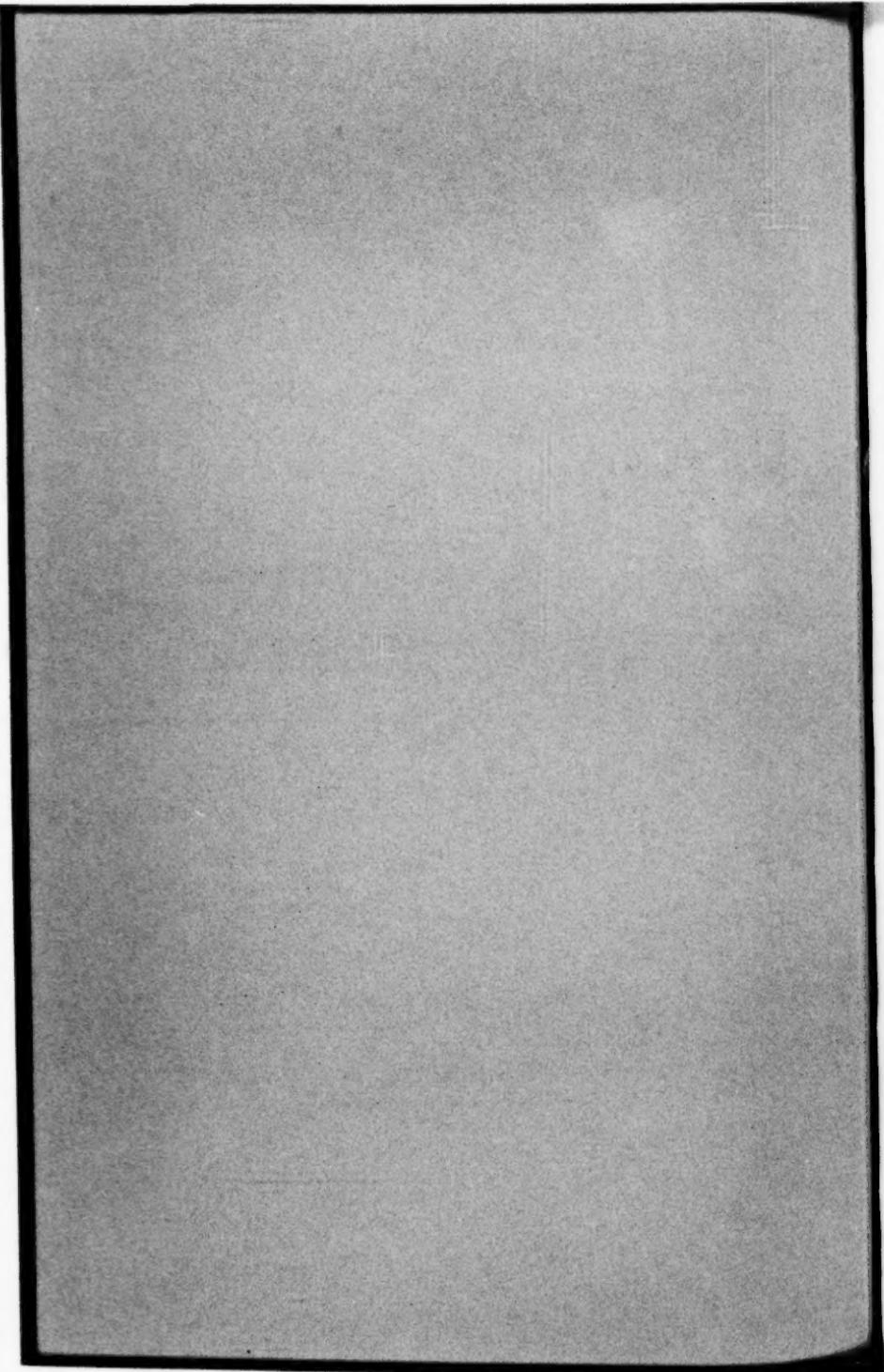
E. E. BRUNER,*Respondent.*

**BRIEF OF RESPONDENT IN OPPOSITION TO GRANTING
OF WRIT OF CERTIORARI**

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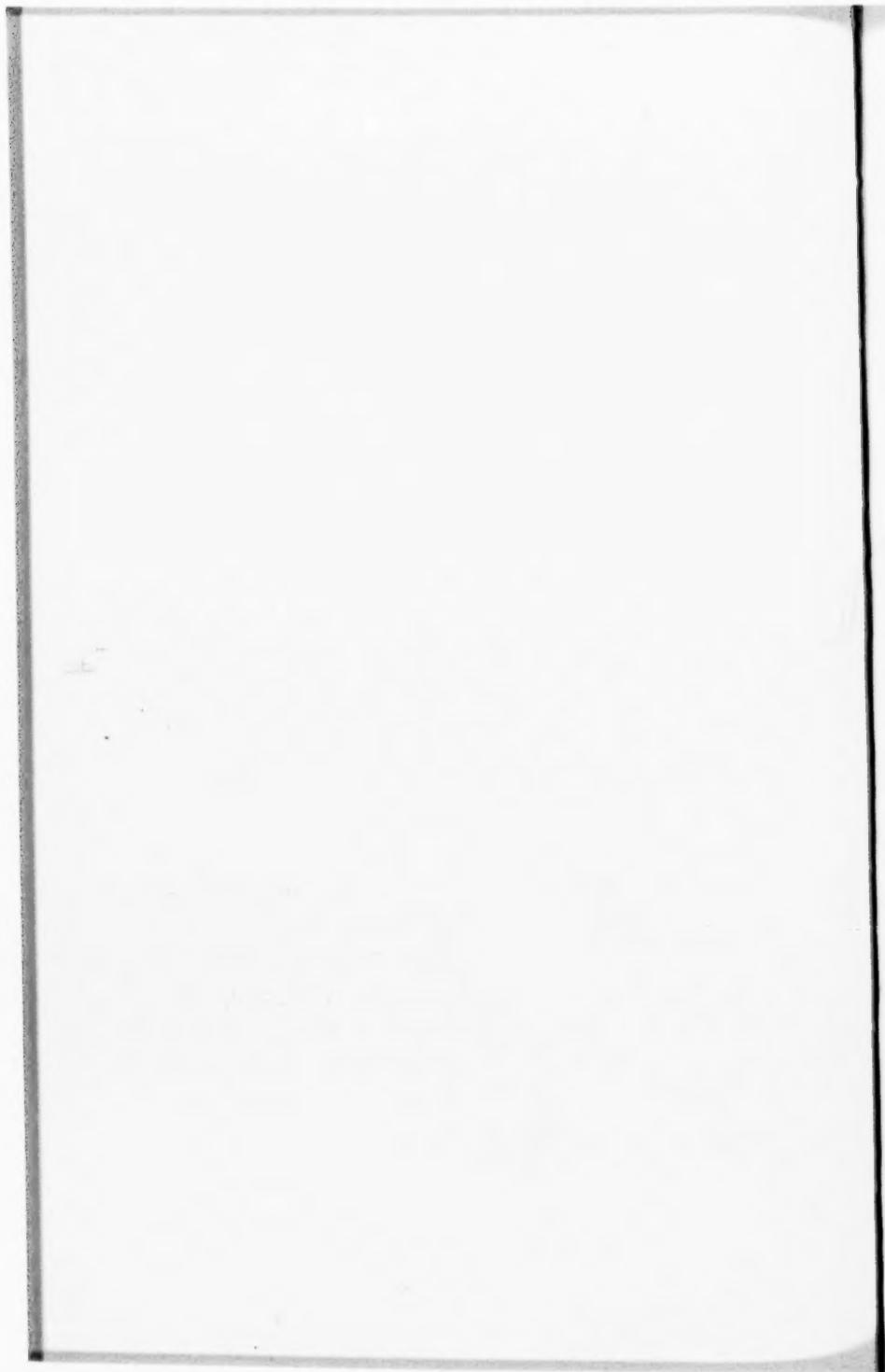
INDEX OF BRIEF

INDEX OF SUBJECT MATTER

	PAGE
The Petition for Writ of Certiorari Is Insufficient.....	1
Record Incomplete, Entire Charge of Court Not Given.....	2
Issue of Negligence and Contributory Negligence Were Submitted to the Jury	3
Statement of the Case	7
Argument	10
The Respondent Was Not Guilty of Contributory Negligence	11
Petitioners Were Guilty of Negligence As a Matter of Law	19
Conclusion	25

INDEX OF AUTHORITIES CITED

Baltimore & P. R. Co. v. Mackey, 157 U. S. 72, 39 L. Ed. 624	10
Brady v. Southern R. R. Co., 64 S. Ct. 232, 88 L. Ed. Adv. Op. 189	8
Choctaw O. & G. R. Co. v. Holloway, 191 U. S. 334, 48 L. Ed. 207, 24 S. Ct. 102	10
Mathews v. Daly West Mining Co., 27 Utah 193, 75 P. 722	13
Tenant v. Peoria & Pekin Union R. Co., 88 L. Ed. Adv. Op. 322	24
Union Pacific Ry. Co. McDonald, 152 U. S. 262, 36 L. Ed. 434, 14 S. Ct. 619	9



SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1943

No. 803

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Respondent.

BRIEF OF RESPONDENT IN OPPOSITION TO GRANTING OF WRIT OF CERTIORARI

The Petition for Writ of Certiorari Is Insufficient.

While counsel for petitioners are to be commended for the brevity of the petition in this case, nevertheless, the petition is not sufficient. No facts appear from the petition showing "the matter involved." The general statement that questions of negligence and contributory negligence are involved is insufficient to present the matter to the Court without at least a brief reference to the facts. No

facts appear in the petition and from the petition itself, the Court could not possibly arrive at any conclusion as to what the issues were.

No facts are stated to which any rules of law appear to be held applicable or inapplicable. Without some facts showing how the questions of negligence and contributory negligence arose, the Court could arrive at no conclusion from reading the petition.

Unless this Court read the opinion of the Supreme Court of Utah, it would have no idea as to what issues were involved. The petition is not sufficient to serve its intended purpose.

Record Incomplete — Entire Charge of Court Not Given.

The petition should be denied because of an improper and insufficient Record. On Page 8 of the brief of petitioners in this Court, it is said that the Supreme Court of Utah erred in holding as a matter of law that respondent was not guilty of contributory negligence, and that as a matter of law, petitioners were guilty of negligence.

The Record does not support this contention.

The only instructions of the Court to the jury appearing in the present Record are Instructions Nos. 6, 9, and 20 on Pages 10 to 12, inclusive, and Instructions 15 and 5 on Pages 117 and 118.

On Page 118 of the Record it is specifically stated that the Record on appeal in the lower court did not contain "Defendants' requested Instruction No. 5."

There appears on Page 10 of the Record—"whereupon the court instructs the jury in writing and the case is argued to the jury". Other than the instructions before referred to, what "the instructions in writing" were, does not appear.

Issues of Negligence and Contributory Negligence Were Submitted to the Jury.

On page 8 of the brief of petitioner it is said that the issue of negligence was not submitted to the jury, but that the Supreme Court of Utah held as a matter of law that petitioner was guilty of negligence.

It is true that the Supreme Court of Utah did say that as a matter of law, it appeared that the defendant trustees were guilty of negligence. Nevertheless, the question of negligence was submitted to the jury, as was the question of contributory negligence.

In the decision of the Supreme Court of Utah, (R. 103-104), it is said: "The defendants urge that the jury was not properly instructed on the issue of contributory negligence. * * * It is contended that the various instructions did not CORRECTLY submit this factor to the jury."

From this it is clear that the question of contributory negligence was submitted as a fact to the jury.

Just how contributory negligence was submitted to the jury does not appear from this Record.

Instruction No. 6 (R. 10-11) deals with the question generally.

Defendants' Requested Instruction No. 15 appears on R. 117-118. This deals with contributory negligence. By this instruction the Court said: "Contributory negligence, however, does operate to reduce the amount which plaintiff would be entitled to recover, if you find that he is entitled to recover anything."

Certainly, this is inconsistent with the claim on Page 8 of the petition that contributory negligence was determined as a matter of law.

We are not unmindful of the statement of the Utah Supreme Court that contributory negligence does not appear in the case. However, the issue was submitted to the jury by Instruction 15.

Also, on Page 118, Defendants' Requested Instruction No. 5 appears. By this instruction it is said, "Contributory negligence is the failure of a person to exercise care under the circumstances for his own safety." Following this Instruction appear the words "Given George A. Faust, Judge". (R. 118)

Under this same Page 118 it appears that the Record in the Court below did not contain this Instruction No. 5.

This, however, cannot avail the petitioners here anything.

Petitioners cannot ask the Supreme Court of the United States to grant certiorari upon an incomplete or a jumbled Record.

The Supreme Court of Utah did not hold as a matter of law that Bruner was not guilty of contributory negligence.

What the Supreme Court did say was—"We must conclude that the Record does not show contributory negligence." (R. 107)

The Court also said there was no evidence to show that the method of doing the work by Bruner was dangerous. (R. 106-107)

The effect of the decision of the Supreme Court of Utah is merely to say that contributory negligence did not appear as a matter of law from the whole record before it.

That contributory negligence was submitted to the jury appears from the statement, (R. 103-104), by Mr. Chief Justice Wolfe to the effect that the defendants contended that the issue of contributory negligence was not PROPERLY submitted to the jury.

Without the Record and without the instructions showing how it was submitted, petitioners are without standing in this Court on the question of contributory negligence.

This leaves the remaining question of whether the defendant trustees were guilty of negligence as a matter of law.

Here, again, the Record is silent. The trial Court submitted the issue of negligence to the jury.

Instruction No. 6 (R. 10 and 11) might be taken to bear on both negligence and contributory negligence.

In Instruction No. 20 (R. 12) the jury was told—"If you find the plaintiff is entitled to recover, you may award him such damages", etc. While the Record is meager, it shows that the issue of negligence or the right to recover was submitted to the jury.

But here, again, on this petition for Writ of Certiorari the Supreme Court of the United States cannot be expected to act in view of the condition of the record and without showing what instructions were in fact given to the jury.

That the question of negligence was submitted to the jury again appears in that portion of Instruction No. 15 on page 117. While that instruction starts out dealing with contributory negligence, it does contain this language: "If under the instructions given you, YOU find that the defendants were negligent and that such negligence was the proximate cause of the injury", etc., clearly it cannot be said in view of this instruction that the jury were not permitted to pass on the question of negligence.

It appears from the decision of the lower court at R. 112 that the trial Court read a portion of the Federal Employers' Liability Act to the jury, being that portion relating to the right to recover for "negligence".

It appears from the opinion at R. 112 that the defendant trustees complained about the charge in that they "were charged with negligence in failing to keep their equipment and road bed in proper condition."

The Court said this was not so. But, the point is that the question of negligence was submitted to the jury.

If it was not submitted properly, the petitioners should have complained at the time, but certainly they cannot now properly come before the Supreme Court of the United States on a Record which does not show what the charge to the jury was, and ask upon the uncertain and incomplete Record, that the Supreme Court grant certiorari.

It appears from the opinion R. 113, that there was an instruction to the jury on negligence in which the jury was told in substance that their conception of negligence under the state law should not govern "because this case was governed by Federal law rather than state law."

What has just been said certainly negatives the idea that the issue of negligence was not submitted to the jury but was found by the Court in this case as a matter of law.

There is a great difference between the Supreme Court of Utah saying that negligence appeared as a matter of law and the trial Court so charging the jury.

It does appear in this case that Petitioners were negligent and Respondent was not. However, Petitioners got all that they were entitled to in the lower court.

The issue of negligence was submitted to the jury. The finding was against them.

The issue of contributory negligence was submitted to the jury; the finding was against them.

In each instance the trial Court upheld the finding of the jury. The Supreme Court of Utah upheld the jury and the lower court.

With such an incomplete Record and with the Record silent as to just how the issues of negligence and contributory negligence were submitted to the jury, we submit that the petition on this ground alone should be denied.

The Petition for Writ should likewise be denied for lack of merit.

Statement of the Case.

This is an ordinary action to recover damages for personal injuries suffered by an employee of the petitioners herein. The action was brought under the Federal Employers' Liability Act, 45 USCA, Sections 51-59; 35 Stat. 65 as amended; 36 Stat. 291 and 53 Stat. 1404.

The provisions of said act were properly applied by the Supreme Court of the State of Utah and its decision herein is not inconsistent with the applicable decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States.

No new question was decided by the Supreme Court of Utah, and its decision does not constitute an extreme or an unusual precedent.

The petition for writ of certiorari is insufficient and should be denied. There is nothing involved herein which necessitates a review by this Court.

Respondent, the plaintiff below, brought suit under said act to recover damages for the loss of a leg below the knee. He alleged that his injury was caused by the negligence of one, Colosimo, a hostler in the employ of the petitioners, in placing two locomotives coupled in motion without receiving from respondent the customary signal, and without

giving warning of the movement by bell or whistle, as a result whereof respondent was thrown upon the tracks beneath the rolling wheels of one of said engines and his left leg was run over and cut off a short distance below the knee.

The trial court submitted the case to the jury under the doctrine of comparative negligence, although there was no evidence of plaintiff's contributory negligence. The jury returned a verdict awarding damages to respondent in the amount of \$30,000.00, without reduction on account of contributory negligence. A motion for a new trial was made by petitioners and by the trial Court denied. On appeal to the Supreme Court of Utah judgment on this verdict was affirmed.

Petitioners there contended that the safety rules set forth in plaintiff's complaint (R. 4-5) were not applicable to the circumstances of the case and that the question of contributory negligence had been improperly presented to the jury. The Court held these contentions to be immaterial because, without regard to the safety rules, the undisputed evidence disclosed, as matter of law, that the petitioners were negligent and that respondent was not guilty of contributory negligence.

Petitioners argue that this holding, in effect, denied them the benefits of trial by jury and is inconsistent with decisions of this Court. Wherein said holding is inconsistent with any of the decisions of this Court, cited by petitioners, is not indicated. In the latest of these cases (*Brady v. Southern Railroad Company*, 64 S. Ct. 232, 88 Law. Ed. Adv. Op. 189, decided December 20, 1943) this Court upheld a decision of the Supreme Court of the State of North Carolina wherein that Court held, as a matter of law, that no negligence on the part of defendant was shown and that hence the trial Court erred in submitting the case to a jury.

The Court stated at 88 Law Ed. Adv. Op. 192:

"When the evidence is such that without weighing the credibility of the witnesses there can be but one reasonable conclusion as to the verdict, the Court should determine the proceeding by non suit, directed verdict or otherwise in accordance with the applicable practice without submission to the jury or by judgment notwithstanding the verdict."

And as pointed out by petitioners (petition and brief, page 2) "the rule must work both ways."

The evidence in the case at bar was not in conflict and the Supreme Court of Utah determined that, as matter of law, the petitioners were liable and that respondent was free from contributory negligence, and hence the assigned errors in regard to safety rules and instructions on contributory negligence could not have been prejudicial to the petitioners.

This ruling does not require or involve a construction of the Federal Employers' Liability Act, but merely an appraisal of the evidence to determine whether negligence or contributory negligence was present in the case. The power of appellate Courts to make such an appraisal is well established in our jurisprudence.

This Court in *Union Pacific Ry Co. v. McDonald*, 152 U. S. 262, 36 L. Ed. 434, 14 S. Ct. 619 (1893) stated:

"Nor did the Court err in saying to the jury that the disputed issue was the question of damages. Looking at all the facts there was an entire absence of any just ground for imputing contributory negligence to the plaintiff. If the jury had so found, the Court could properly have set aside the verdict as being against the evidence. Upon the question of negligence, the case is within the rule that the Court may withdraw a case from the jury, altogether and 'direct a verdict for the

plaintiff or the defendant, as the one or the other may be proper, where the evidence is undisputed or is of such a conclusive character that the Court in the exercise of a sound judicial discretion, would be compelled to set aside a verdict returned in opposition to it.' *Delaware L. & W. R. Co. v. Converse*, 139 U. S. 469, 35 L. Ed. 213, and authorities there cited; *Elliott v. Chicago M. & St. P. R. Co.*, 150 U. S. 245, 37 L. Ed. 1068; *Anderson County Comrs. v. Beal*, 113 U. S. 227, 28 L. Ed. 966."

See also *Baltimore & P. R. Co. v. Mackey*, 157 U. S. 72, 39 L. Ed. 624, wherein this Court found that as a matter of law there was no contributory negligence in order to avoid the effect of a claimed erroneous instruction on that subject, and *Choctaw O. & G. R. Co. v. Holloway*, 191 U. S. 334, 48 L. Ed. 207, 24 S. Ct. 102, wherein this Court decided that the defendant was guilty of negligence as a matter of law in order to avoid the effect of a claimed erroneous instruction on that subject.

Under the foregoing we believe it is apparent that this is not such a case as comes within the rules laid down by this Court for the granting of petitions for writ of certiorari.

However, we sincerely submit that the Supreme Court of Utah correctly decided this case on its merits and that in view of the undisputed facts the petitioners were guilty of negligence and respondent was free from contributory negligence as matter of law.

Argument.

The Supreme Court of the State of Utah correctly held (1) that respondent was not guilty of contributory negligence; and (2) that the petitioners were guilty of negligence as matter of law.

The Respondent Was Not Guilty of Contributory Negligence.

During the shift when respondent was injured he, as hostler's helper, and Colosimo, as hostler, had been working together (R. 27) in delivering and servicing engines assigned to road duty and recovering incoming engines. The track on which respondent was injured ran east and west. (R. 29) As this track extends west from the round house it reaches the cinder pits first, then the sand house, then the coal chute. (R. 29) It was dark at night when the accident occurred. (R. 33)

Engine 1149 was at the cinder pits when Engine 1182 was brought from the roundhouse and coupled onto it. Both engines were facing east. (R. 31) The fire was cleaned on Engine 1182 at the pits (R. 31) During this operation respondent and Colosimo discussed the movements to be made by the engines. (R. 31) Colosimo told respondent to sand and coal 1182 and that he would coal 1149. (R. 31) Respondent then took a position on the running board of 1182 and when the fire cleaning operation was completed, he, with lighted latern, gave Colosimo, who was in the cab of 1149, a back up signal. (R. 32) Colosimo thereupon sounded the whistle on the 1149 to indicate that he had received the signal (R. 82, 63) and then started the engines backward, and when the 1182 reached a position where sand could be placed in the sand dome, respondent gave the stop signal with his lantern and Colosimo brought the engines to a stop. (R. 32) When the sanding operation was completed respondent again gave the back up signal (R. 33) and Colosimo thereupon backed the engines westward (R. 33) and stopped them when the 1149 reached a point where its tender was beneath the coal chute. (R. 33) After he, Colosimo, had placed coal in the tender of 1149 he started the engines backward, without receiving a signal from respondent and without ascertaining where respondent was,

and without giving any warning signal by bell, whistle, or otherwise.

After the completion of the sanding operation, respondent went back into the cab of 1182 and checked the fire and water and shut off the blower. (R. 33) He then got off the engine on the north side and proceeded back to the rear of the tender. He stepped upon the left rear foot board and took hold of the grab iron which extends horizontally across the back of the tender. He intended to pass over the draw bar and climb up the ladder to the top of the tender. (R. 34, 41) As he was in the act of passing over the draw bar, the engines were unexpectedly started with a sudden jerk by Colosimo as aforesaid and he was thrown onto the tracks where his left leg was run over necessitating amputation below the knee. (R. 41, 42)

There was no conflict in this evidence.

The petitioners' contention that respondent was guilty of contributory negligence is based upon their conclusion that of the five possible ways respondent could have used to gain a position on top of the tender of 1182, he chose the only dangerous, awkward and clumsy way.

This argument is basically unsound in that it rests upon the false premise that the way chosen by respondent to gain his position on the top of the tender of 1182 proximately contributed to the cause of his injury, when as a matter of fact this act was not a causitive factor in the occurrence complained of.

Petitioners' argument also ignores the fact that there is an entire absence of proof that the way pursued by respondent was dangerous or unusual or that the other suggested methods were safe. The argument in its final analysis is nothing but counsel's conclusion that there was inherent danger in the way pursued by respondent and complete

safety in the other methods or ways suggested. Each of the five methods was perfectly safe so long as the engines remained still, as they were when respondent started to pass over the draw bar to the ladder. None was safe in the event the engines were moved suddenly and without warning. The danger was borne of the negligent act of Colosimo in starting the engines without signal or warning, it was not kin to the way pursued.

It is interesting to note that the hostler Colosimo did not use any of the ways or methods suggested by petitioners in gaining his position on the tender of 1149 when it was stopped at the coal chute. (R. 82, 98, 99)

The case of *Mathews v. Daly West Mining Company*, 27 Utah 193, 75 Pac. 722, is illustrative of the proposition that the danger here was borne of the negligent act in starting the engines and not of the way pursued by respondent. In that case the plaintiff was an employee in an ore mill. The superintendent told him that the mill would be shut down for one-half hour and for plaintiff to look the machinery over while it was down. In making this check the plaintiff discovered a loose cap. He procured a candle and wrench and then laid crosswise over the belt in order to tighten the cap. While thus situated the mill was suddenly and unexpectedly started and the plaintiff injured. It was contended by the defendant that the safe method of tightening this cap was to lie down underneath the belt while someone else held a candle and that plaintiff thus could have tightened the cap without being exposed to danger, even though the mill was placed in operation while the task was being performed. The testimony, however, indicated that the method used by plaintiff, as well as the method suggested by appellant, was safe as long as the mill was not in operation. There was evidence that it was customary to give a warning when the mill was about to start and that

no such warning was given. Defendant contended that inasmuch as the plaintiff knew of each of the methods mentioned and knew that he could have tightened the loose cap with safety by lying prone underneath the belt, he was guilty of contributory negligence. The Court states:

“They rely upon the well-settled rule of law that when the servant knows, or by the exercise of ordinary care can ascertain, that there are both safe and dangerous ways by which he can perform his duties, if he voluntarily chooses to pursue one of the ways that is dangerous, he assumes the natural and ordinary risk incident to the way he has chosen, * * *”

and continuing:

“It is also well settled that the negligence of the master is not among the risks so assumed by the servant. Therefore when the servant, in the discharge of his duties, is in a position which is, under the conditions which then exist, naturally safe, but is suddenly made dangerous by the negligence of the master, and the injury to the servant is immediately caused thereby, the master is liable.”

The Court observed that the position of plaintiff did not become dangerous until the mill was suddenly and unexpectedly started, and, in commenting on certain decisions cited by appellant, stated:

“In neither of these cases was it shown, as in the case at bar, that the position of the servant, which before the accident was safe, was at the time of the injury suddenly made dangerous by the negligent act of the master. It is clear that these cases are not in point.”

It clearly appears from the testimony that the way or method taken to gain a position on top of the tender is entirely up to the individual. Colosimo testified:

Q. And when the helper is in the cab he gets down on one side, from one gangway to the other?

A. Yes sir. Some of them—they have so many ways of working—some of them crawl up over the gates and get into them.

Q. It is more or less up to the helper what he does?

A. Yes sir.

Q. You do not pretend to tell the helpers how they should do this part of their work?

A. No sir.

Q. Nobody ever pretended to tell you how to do it when you were a helper?

A. No sir. (R. 99, 100)

Petitioners rely solely upon photographs of the two engines, Exhibits 3 (R. 62A), A (R. 34A) and F (R. 74A) to support their contention that respondent selected the most dangerous way of getting up on the tender of 1182, and from these exhibits without the aid of testimony they create these imaginary dangers. Certainly it does not appear from these photographs that the way chosen by respondent was either dangerous, clumsy or awkward. An examination of the exhibits discloses that there is a foot board on either side over the rails at the rear of the tender of 1182, and that above each foot board is a metal stirrup. For respondent to get to the top of the tender it was only necessary to do the following: Step onto the foot board at the north rear corner and grasp the hand hold which extends horizontally across the entire rear end of the tender approximately eight inches above the pin lifter, then place left foot in the iron stirrup immediately above the foot board; next, place the right foot and body weight upon the draw bar, and take hold of the ladder with either hand, the ladder being about two feet beyond the draw bar and immediately over the south rail. Finally, climb up the ladder to the top of the tender.

Petitioners refer to this method as crawling or clambering over the draw bar. It could much more fairly be described as a stepping from the foot board and stirrup onto the draw bar and thence to the ladder.

Petitioners make the statement on pages 12 and 13 of their brief that there is no horizontal hand hold across the rear of the tender of 1182. In view of Exhibits 3, A and F it is rather difficult for us to reconcile this assertion. The bar above the pin lifter extends completely across the back of the tender. What is its purpose? Without question it is a hand hold installed for use by workmen crossing over the draw bar.

The uncontradicted evidence is to the effect that it was common practice amongst petitioners' employees to pursue the course followed by respondent in passing over the draw bar to the ladder of 1182, under the circumstances disclosed by the record here. Respondent testified (R. 75-76):

Q. I call your attention to the heavy iron rod, the top iron rod that runs above the pin lifter.

A. Yes.

Q. What do you use that for?

A. It is to hold onto. We use them when we are out in the yards switching, to hold onto, when we are riding around. That is for the purpose of taking hold of it, with your hands.

Q. You may state whether or not, in the course of your employment as a hostler, or a hostler's helper and fireman, you have occasion to cross from one side to the other of an engine coupled to a tender, and to pass over the drawbar?

A. Yes, many times I have had occasion to. I did so many times. It is a common practice to get off and go up that way.

We submit that the way chosen by respondent was usual and safe, was one commonly taken, and that hand holds

were afforded for the entire course, but here again we suggest that it was not the way chosen which caused the injury, but the sudden, unexpected and negligent starting of the engines.

It is rather interesting to note that the railroad company was evidently unable to produce from among its vast number of employees any witness who would testify that the way pursued by respondent was unusual, awkward and dangerous, nor did the railroad make any attempt to prove the existence of any rule, regulation or instruction which prohibited such a movement or described it as unsafe or dangerous, and likewise petitioners failed to prove the existence of any custom or practice among its employees which in any way restricted employees from passing over the draw bar when their duties required them to move from one side of a coupled car or tender to another.

Respondent submits that the natural conclusion from this lack of evidence on the part of the defendant is that the movement is neither dangerous, awkward, clumsy or unusual, and in view of the fact that there is positive evidence to the effect that the movement is usual and common, petitioners' contentions to the contrary should be disregarded.

Four other possible routes are suggested by counsel. The first two are apparently suggested without having in mind the testimony of respondent:

Q. In order for you to give any signal or communication whatsoever to the operator of an engine, where would you naturally get?

A. I would get up on top of the tank, and in this particular instance in order to be where I should be in order to make the proper spot to take coal, *to be in a position for spotting and taking coal both, that is the proper place to be, for that move, up on the back end of the tank of 1182.* (R. 73)

These first two ways, as is clearly shown by the diagram, petitioners' brief, appendix A, would place Bruner at the front end of 1182 and would necessitate his scrambling over coal to get to the rear of the tender. As to the number one route described by petitioners, there is no evidence to show what hand holds or facilities, if any, are provided to go over the coal gates and onto the tender. Colosimo only suggested this route as one taken by some workmen. His testimony is as follows:

Q. And when the helper is in the cab he gets down on one side, from one gangway to the other?

A. Yes sir. Some of them—they have so many ways of working—some of them crawl up over the gates and get into them. (R. 99, 100)

The second route described by petitioners was mentioned by Colosimo as being one taken only when the workman was on top of the boiler, it was not a route used by workmen who were in the cab, (R. 99) and respondent was in the cab of 1182 and not on the boiler when the engines were stopped at the coal chute. (R. 33) There is no evidence to show what hand holds or facilities are furnished for a workman using this route. Certain it is that from the appearance of the diagram in Appendix A of petitioners' brief, a person, while crossing the top of the cab would be in a perilous position without the aid of hand holds, especially if the engine was suddenly and unexpectedly placed in motion.

No witness ever testified to or mentioned the routes numbered by petitioners three and five. These routes lead to the rear of the tender of 1182. They are probably ways of getting to the desired place but wherein they are any more safe or less dangerous, awkward or clumsy than the route taken by respondent does not appear from the record.

A person attempting to mount the tender of 1182 by any of the means or ways suggested by appellants would have been placed in great danger and peril and perhaps injured or killed by the sudden and unexpected starting of the locomotives. The danger was not in the manner of mounting the tender but in the negligent act of Colosimo. Just as the Supreme Court of Utah stated, even if a less safe way were taken, this did not contribute to the injury which was caused by the unexpected jerk.

We submit that the Supreme Court of Utah correctly determined that there was no evidence here of contributory negligence.

Petitioners Were Guilty of Negligence As A Matter of Law.

The matter of petitioners' negligence as charged by respondent was submitted to the jury upon proper instructions, and so far as we know petitioners have never questioned the sufficiency of the evidence to support the jury's finding to the effect that they were negligent as charged.

Petitioners, however, now contend that it was possible for the jury to find that Colosimo instructed respondent to stay on engine 1182, that it was his duty to obey and that under such circumstances it cannot be said as a matter of law that Colosimo owed respondent the duty to anticipate that he (respondent) would disobey that order and the failure of Colosimo to so anticipate does not constitute negligence.

The proposition thus advanced is entirely moot inasmuch as any question of negligence based on Colosimo's failure to anticipate what respondent might or might not do was not pled by respondent nor submitted to the jury by the trial Court.

There are, however, two complete answers to this contention: (1) The record does not disclose that any such order was ever given by Colosimo; and (2) the failure of Colosimo to anticipate the breach of such order, even if one had been given, did not in whole or in part cause the injuries sustained by respondent, and was never relied upon by respondent, his counsel or the Supreme Court of Utah as a ground of negligence in this case. Petitioners here merely set up a straw man.

The record clearly indicates that Colosimo never did order respondent to stay on engine 1182 in the sense that he was not to dismount from it. He only told respondent what to do, not how to do it. The complete record on this is as follows:

Colosimo on direct examination:

Q. Now, will you state what was said between you and Mr. Bruner at that time?

A. I told him that the back engine, 1149, was already sanded, and the 1182 needed to be sanded, and I told him to sand the 1182 and coal 1182 and I would coal 1149 as we went by the coal chute.

Q. Was that all you said to him at that time?

A. Yes, I believe so. I told him for him to sand 1182 and stay on her and coal her, and at the same time I would take care of the 1149. (R. 81)

On cross examination:

Q. You never gave Mr. Bruner any instructions as to how he could get in and out of the engine, or what he should do, other than to work with you in this movement?

A. No sir.

Q. You never told Mr. Bruner how he should get down?

A. Down from the gangway onto the other?

Q. You did not tell him to go out of the window, up on top of the cab, on to the tender; you did not do that at all, did you?

A. No sir.

Q. The fact of the matter is, that was just up to him?

A. Yes sir. (R. 99)

On redirect examination:

Q. Mr. Colosimo, at the time you talked with Mr. Bruner, back at the cinder pit, about what you were going to do, did you say anything to Mr. Bruner as to where he should be and stay?

A. I just told him to stay on the 1182. That is what I told him, just to stay on the 1182, and I would take care of the 1149. (R. 102)

On recross examination:

Q. All you meant by that was that you would take care of 1149, and Bruner would take care of 1182?

A. Yes sir. (R. 102)

That this was the meaning conveyed to respondent is confirmed by his testimony:

He had come up to Engine 1182 and told me that I would have to take sand on the Engine 1182; that both engines needed coal, and he would coal on Engine 1149, and for me to take coal on 1182. (R. 31)

The Supreme Court of Utah on this point stated:

"Nor does the evidence show that Colosimo ordered the plaintiff to stay on Engine 1182. True Colosimo did testify that "I just told him to stay on 1182. That is what I told him, just to stay on 1182 and I would take care of 1149." But it is clear that what he meant

by this was merely that plaintiff should confine his work to 1182 and Colosimo would take care of 1149; for in response to the question: "All you meant by that was that you would take care of 1149 and Bruner would take care of 1182?," Colosimo answered: "Yes, sir." This interpretation of this statement is further borne out by the remainder of Colosimo's testimony." (R. 106)

But let us assume that Colosimo ordered respondent not to dismount from Engine 1182 at any time. How can this aid the petitioners on the question of negligence imputed to them by the conduct of their servant Colosimo? The negligence plead and relied upon by respondent, and upon which this action is based, was the failure of Colosimo to give a warning that the engines were to be moved and his

failure to hold the engines still until he received a proper signal from respondent. The duty violated by Colosimo, giving rise to the cause of action herein, was not the duty to anticipate what respondent would do or fail to do. It was the duty resting upon him to hold said engines still until he received a proper signal from respondent, and to give a proper warning before placing said engines in motion. It seems apparent that the sudden, unexpected movement of the engines under the circumstances disclosed by the record, was highly dangerous to respondent, and would have been dangerous to anyone working on the engines and not expecting or anticipating the movement.

Petitioners complain that respondent dismounted from Engine 1182, and contend that this was a dangerous act. May we suggest that if respondent had been off the engine when it started he would not have been injured. His injuries resulted from being on the engine when it was negligently placed in motion. Certainly any instruction given by Colosimo to respondent requiring respondent to take care

of 1182 while Colosimo did likewise with 1149 would not and should not relieve Colosimo of his duty to give proper warning and to hold said engines still until he received a proper signal from respondent. This admitted violation of duty on the part of Colosimo was relied upon by respondent and was relied upon by the Supreme Court of the State of Utah, and the existence of that duty and its breach by Colosimo is established by uncontradicted evidence.

It is interesting to note that the petitioners have never questioned the sufficiency of the proof to establish the existence of this duty and its violation by Colosimo, and have never contended that there was any evidence to the contrary.

The practice in the yards at Grand Junction was to move engines only on signal. The hostler's helper giving a signal

by lantern which was then acknowledged by a whistle signal from the hostler. (R. 25, 26) Respondent testified that these signals were in effect at the time and place of the injury and that he "always used them and worked by them." (R. 26)

At the time the engines were moved from the cinder pits, respondent first gave a back up signal and Colosimo acknowledged this signal by whistle. The engines were stopped at the sand house by signal from respondent, and before the engines were moved a proper signal was given by him to Colosimo. This shows beyond any doubt that these two men were moving the engines by signal only, and that each was relying upon the signals. Colosimo not only placed the engines in motion without a signal from respondent and without giving any warning signal whatsoever, but also without knowing where or in what position respondent was at the time. Both respondent and Colosimo testified to the

foregoing facts. There is no dispute in the evidence. Could negligence be any more clearly established?

On the matter of petitioners' negligence, the Supreme Court of the State of Utah stated:

"If the crew member operating an engine were to move it without signal from his co-worker when he knew the latter was engaged about the train at a point where he could not be seen, we might expect yard accidents to multiply greatly. There is also no dispute concerning the fact that Colosimo did not get a signal from his helper, the plaintiff, to back up so that 1182 could be coaled; nor did he give a whistle signal. It is also admitted that this sudden start caused the plaintiff to fall to the tracks. The hostler and his helper customarily moved the trains by signals between themselves. Colosimo started the train without either getting a signal from the plaintiff or giving a whistle or bell signal himself. It was dark and he could not see the plaintiff nor did he know where the plaintiff was. Moving the train under these circumstances was negligence even apart from the safety rules." (R. 110)

Subsequent to the decision of the Supreme Court of Utah in this case, this Honorable Court has had occasion to pass upon the question of negligence on the part of a railroad company arising from the violation of a company rule, providing that the bell must be rung "when an engine is about to move."

One of the rules relied upon by respondent here was the company's safety rule No. 30 which provided, in part, as follows:

"The bell must be rung when an engine is about to move." * * * (R. 4)

In the case referred to *Tennant v. Peoria & Pekin Union R. Co.*, 88 L. Ed. Adv. Op. 322, decided January 17, 1944, this Court stated:

"As to the proof of negligence, the court below correctly held that it was sufficient to present a jury question. In view of respondent's own rule that a bell must be rung 'when an engine is about to move,' it was not unreasonable for the jury to conclude that the failure to ring the bell under these circumstances constituted negligence. This was not an operation where bell ringing might be termed unnecessary or indiscriminate as a matter of law. Cf. Aerketz v. Humphreys, 145 U. S. 418, 420, 36 L. Ed. 758, 759, 12 S. Ct. 835; Toledo, St. L. & W. R. Co. v. Allen, 276 U. S. 165, 171, 72 L. Ed. 513, 516, 48 S. Ct. 215. The engine had remained stationary for several minutes, during which the engineer saw Tennant disappear in the direction of the subsequent engine movement. Still not knowing the precise whereabouts of Tennant, the engineer then caused the engine and cars to make an extended backward movement. Such a movement, without a warning, was clearly dangerous to life and limb."

Respondent believes that this decision substantially supports the decision of the Supreme Court of Utah in this case.

Certainly the jury had no fact question to pass upon. There was no controversy about the locomotives being stationary at the time plaintiff attempted to board 1182, nor the fact that the engines were placed in motion without a signal or warning. With only one inference and that of negligence on the part of Colosimo to be drawn from the undisputed facts in this situation, clearly, the trial Court and the Supreme Court of Utah committed no error in holding that the petitioners were guilty of negligence as matter of law.

Conclusion.

The petition for writ and the record are incomplete and insufficient.

This case involves no construction of a Federal Act. The decision of the Supreme Court of Utah was upon no new point of law. This is merely an ordinary action to recover damages for personal injuries and in which there is no dispute in the evidence and the negligence of petitioners and the lack of negligence of respondent is clearly established. The decision of the Supreme Court of Utah is not inconsistent with, but is in accord with the applicable decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States.

We respectfully submit that there are no grounds which justify the granting of the petition for a writ of certiorari in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

CALVIN W. RAWLINGS,

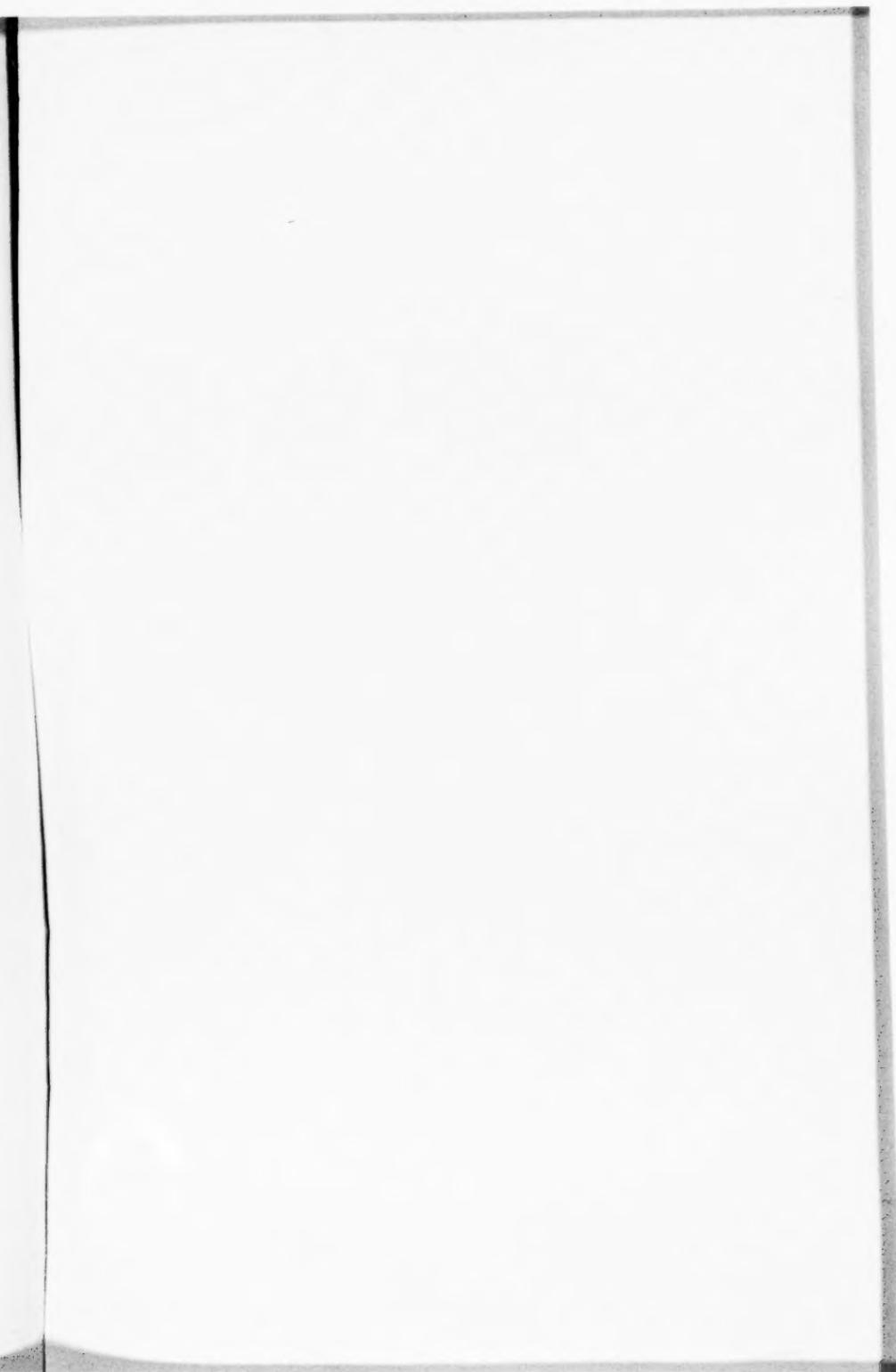
Counsel for Respondents.

PARNELL BLACK,

BRIGHAM E. ROBERTS,

HAROLD E. WALLACE,

Of Counsel.





APR 28 1944

(3) CHARLES ELMORE DROPLEY
CLERK

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1943

No. 403 41

WILSON McCARTHY AND HENRY SWAN, TRUSTEES OF THE
DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,
A CORPORATION, AND THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WEST-
ERN RAILROAD COMPANY, A CORPORATION,

Petitioners.

vs.

E. E. BRUNER,

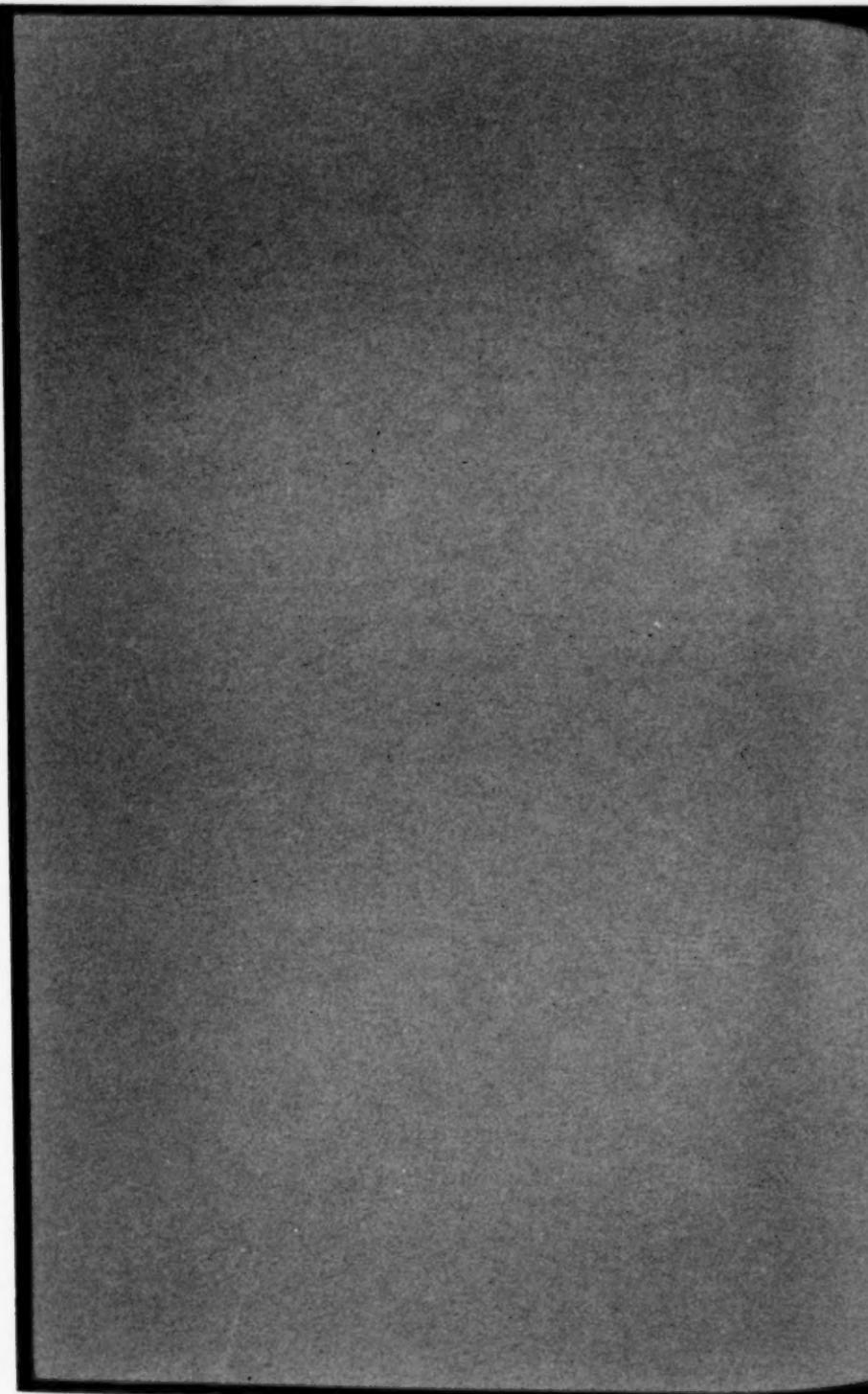
Respondent.

REPLY BRIEF OF PETITIONERS IN SUPPORT OF
PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

P. T. FARNSWORTH, JR.,

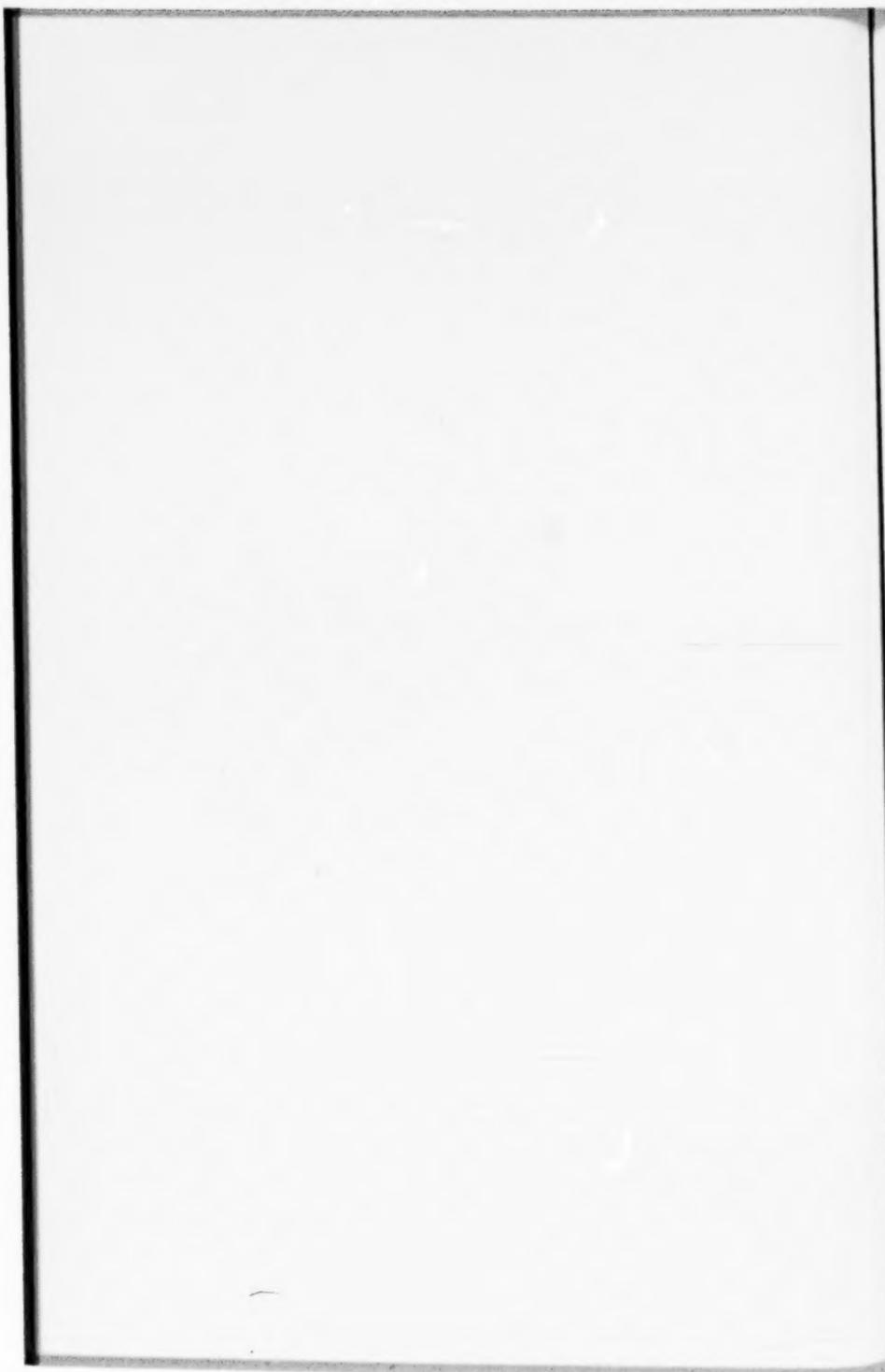
W. Q. VAN COTT,

Counsel for Petitioners.



INDEX

	Page
The petition for writ of certiorari complies with the rules of the Supreme Court of the United States.....	1
Respondent's contention that the entire charge to the jury should have been included in the record is inconsistent with respondent's action in regard to petitioners' praecipe for record	2
Respondent's brief misconstrues petitioner's contention....	3
Reply as to respondent's contention that he was not guilty of contributory negligence as matter of law.....	4
Reply as to respondent's contention that petitioners were guilty of negligence as matter of law	5
Conclusion	5



SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1943

No. 803

WILSON McCARTHY AND HENRY SWAN, TRUSTEES OF THE
DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,
A CORPORATION, AND THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WES-
TERN RAILROAD COMPANY, A CORPORATION,

Petitioners,

vs.

E. E. BRUNER,

Respondent.

**REPLY BRIEF OF PETITIONERS IN SUPPORT OF
PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI**

**The Petition for Writ of Certiorari Complies with the
Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States.**

Paragraph 2 of Rule 38 reads: "The petition should con-
tain a summary and short statement of the matter involved;—."

The summary and short statement of the matter involved set forth on pages 1 and 2 of the petition disclose the general nature of the case. The details of the case are set forth in the statement of the case in the brief which supports the summary and short statement.

Respondent's Contention that the Entire Charge to the Jury Should have been Included in the Record is Inconsistent with Respondent's Action in Regard to Petitioners' Praecipe for Record.

Respondent on pages 2 and 3 of his brief asserts that the entire charge of the court should have been set forth in the record. Petitioner followed the practice required by Rule 38, paragraph 8, of this Court, which admonishes counsel to stipulate to omit from the printed record all matters not essential to a consideration of the questions presented by the petitioner for the writ.

The Praecipe for Record (R. 118-122) requested in Items 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 (R. 119) that there be included in the certified record instructions to the jury Nos. 6, 9 and 20 and the exceptions thereto. This praecipe, together with copy of the petition for the writ of certiorari, was served on counsel for respondent on February 21, 1944. (R. 122.) At the suggestion of respondent, petitioners included in the praecipe Items Nos. 21, 22 and a statement regarding the record on appeal from the trial court to the Supreme Court of Utah. (R. 121, 122.) That these items were included at the request of respondent affirmatively appears in the praecipe itself, which reads: "At the suggestion of the respondent, appellants further request you to transcribe and certify the following portions of the record:—" (R. 121.) Then follows the request for Items 21, 22 and said statement.

In the praecipe as served upon counsel for respondent also appeared the following statement: "Said portions of the record are all of the material portions thereof necessary to a proper presentation and consideration in the Supreme Court of the United States of the questions presented by the Petition for Certiorari." (R. 122.)

It is submitted that the procedure followed constitutes a stipulation by the parties hereto that the portions of the record specified in the praecipe, together with those added by respondent, constituted all of the material portions of the record necessary to a proper presentation and consideration of the questions presented by the petition for certiorari.

Respondent's Brief Misconstrues Petitioner's Contention.

On page 3 respondent makes the misstatement that on page 8 of the brief of petitioners it is said "that the issue of negligence was not submitted to the jury—." No such statement is made on page 8 of petitioners' brief or elsewhere. The statement is made that the Supreme Court of Utah held as matter of law that the evidence introduced at the trial would have justified the trial court in withholding the issues of negligence and contributory negligence from the jury.

Petitioners have never contended that the trial court did not submit the issues of negligence or contributory negligence to the jury. Petitioners' contention has been that they were erroneously submitted. The Supreme Court disposed of those contentions by holding as matter of law that the railroad was negligent and that the employe was not guilty of contributory negligence. It is of those holdings that petitioners here complain and it is those holdings as to which petitioners seek certiorari.

That the Supreme Court did so hold is obvious from its opinion. Respondent on page 9 thus states the holding of the Supreme Court—"the Supreme Court of Utah determined that, as matter of law, the petitioners were liable and that respondent was free from contributory negligence, and hence assigned errors in regard to safety rules and instructions on contributory negligence could not have been prejudicial to the petitioners."

On page 4 respondent refers to the record as incomplete and jumbled and in other places on pages 3 to 7 urges that the record is incomplete with respect to the charge to the jury. It does not lie in respondent's mouth to complain of the record in view of the procedure described above.

**Reply as to Respondent's Contention that he was not Guilty
of Contributory Negligence as Matter of Law.**

Respondent's brief discloses a misconception as to the nature of petitioners' contention. Petitioners do not contend that the evidence requires the conclusion that respondent was guilty of contributory negligence as matter of law but merely that the evidence required submission to the jury as to whether the respondent was guilty of contributory negligence. This misconception of respondent is evidenced by statements on page 12 of his brief and also by his reliance on the case of *Mathews v. Daly West Mining Co.* cited on page 13 of his brief. That case merely holds that the motions for non-suit and directed verdict made by the defendant were properly denied. It does not hold as matter of law that plaintiff was not guilty of contributory negligence.

**Reply as to Respondent's Contention that Petitioners were
Guilty of Negligence as Matter of Law.**

Respondent makes the contention at the bottom of page 19 that this question is moot because respondent did not plead that Colosimo was negligent in failing to anticipate that respondent might disobey Colosimo's order. On the contrary the complaint affirmatively alleges that Colosimo was negligent in moving the engine without warning. (R. 3.)

It is asserted on page 20 that the record does not disclose that any such order was given by Colosimo. The evidence is set forth on pages 15 and 16 of petitioners' brief with references to the record where the evidence may be found.

It is also asserted on page 20 by respondent that the failure of Colosimo to anticipate the breach by Bruner of Colosimo's order did not in whole or in part cause the injuries sustained by respondent. It is the contention of petitioners that this cannot be said as matter of law.

Conclusion.

Petitioners pray that this Honorable Court grant their petition for writ of certiorari.

Respectfully submitted,

P. T. FARNSWORTH, JR.,

W. Q. VAN COTT,

Counsel for Petitioners.





FILED

SEP 12 1944

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1944

No. 41

WILSON McCARTHY AND HENRY SWAN, TRUSTEES OF THE
DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,
A CORPORATION, AND THE DENVER & RIO GRANDE
WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY, A CORPORATION,

Petitioners,

vs.

E. E. BRUNER,

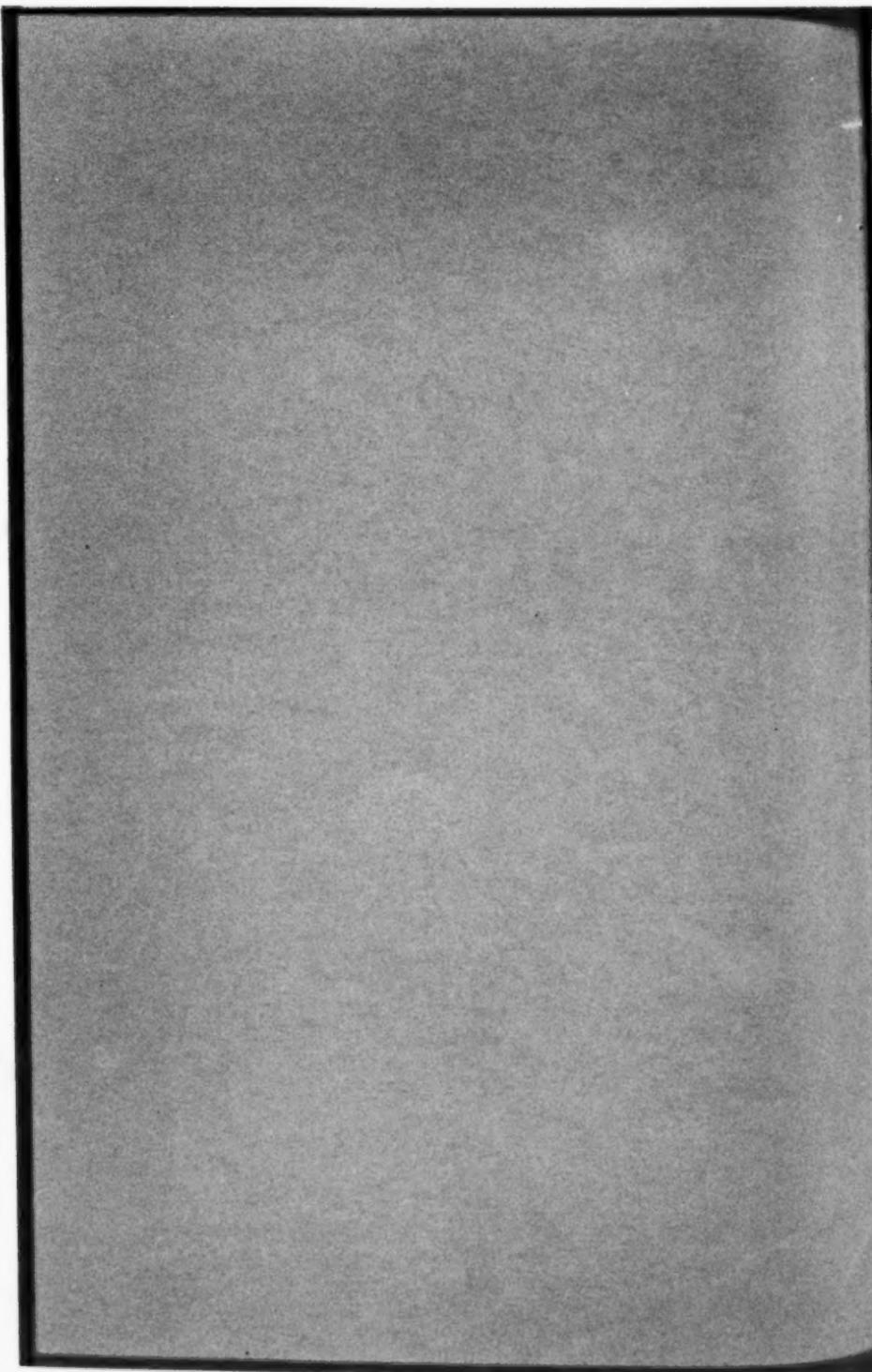
Respondent.

BRIEF OF PETITIONERS

P. T. FARNSWORTH, JR.,

W. Q. VAN COTT,

Counsel for Petitioners.



INDEX

SUBJECT INDEX

	Page
Opinion of Courts below	1
Grounds on Which Jurisdiction of Supreme Court of the United States Is Invoked.....	2
Statement of the Case	2
Specification of Errors	7
SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT	7
ARGUMENT	10
I. THE MAJORITY OPINION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH ERRED IN HOLDING AS MAT- TER OF LAW THAT RESPONDENT WAS NOT GUILTY OF CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE.... 10	
1. <i>Bruner chose an unnecessarily hazardous method of proceeding from the cab of engine 1182 to the top of the tender.....</i>	12
2. <i>Bruner's choice of ways was in violation of the duty, which he testified he was under, to be in position to give signals to Colosimo....</i>	20
3. <i>There is evidence that Bruner disregarded the instructions of his boss in getting off engine 1182</i>	22
4. <i>Bruner failed to inform his boss that he was going to clamber over the draw bars and coupler between engines 1182 and 1149</i>	25
II. THE MAJORITY OPINION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH ERRED IN HOLDING AS MATTER OF LAW THAT PETITIONERS WERE GUILTY OF NEGLIGENCE	
Conclusion	32

INDEX—Continued

	Page
Appendix A	33
Appendix B	35
Appendix C	38
Appendix D	40

CASES CITED

Allison v. McCarthy, et al., 147 Pac. (2d) 870.....	28
Atlantic Coast Line R. Co. v. Davis, 279 U. S. 34, 73 L. Ed. 601, 49 S. Ct. 210	16
A. T. & S. F. Ry. Co. v. Calhoun, 213 U .S. 1, 53 L. Ed. 671, 29 S. Ct. 321	30
Bailey v. Central Vermont Ry. Inc., 319 U. S. 350, 87 L. Ed. 1030, 63 S. Ct. 1062	11, 32
Beulah Coal Mining Co. v. Verbrugh, 292 Fed. 34 (8th C. C. A.)	16
Brady v. Southern Ry. Co., 320 U. S. 476, 88 L. Ed. 189, 64 S. Ct. 232	2, 11, 32
Bruner v. McCarthy, 142 Pac. (2d) 649.....	1
Central Vermont Ry. Co. v. White, 238 U. S. 507, 59 L. Ed. 1433, 35 S. Ct. 865.....	6
C. St. P. M. & O. Ry. Co. v. Elliott, 55 Fed. 949 (8th C. C. A.)	32
Ellis' Adm'r v. Louisville, H. & St. L. Ry. Co., 155 Ky. 745, 160 S. W. 512	41
Fort Smith Gas Co. v. Cloud, 75 Fed. (2d) 413 (8th C. C. A.)	32
Fox Film Co. v. Mullen, 296 U. S. 207, 80 L. Ed. 158, 56 S. Ct. 183	5
Fritz v. The Salt Lake and Ogden Gas and Electric Light Co., 18 Utah 493, 56 Pac. 90.....	16

INDEX—Continued

	Page
Garrett v. Moore-McCormack Co., 317 U. S. 239, 87 L. Ed. 239, 63 S. Ct. 246	2, 6
Hartung v. Union Pacific R. Co., 35 Wyo. 188, 247 Pac. 1071	40
Humphreys v. Davis, 61 Utah 592, 217 Pac. 693.....	41
Hutson v. So. Cal. Ry. Co., 150 Cal. 701, 89 Pac. 1093....	35
Indiana v. Brand, 303 U. S. 95, 82 L. Ed. 685, 58 S. Ct. 443	5
Kansas City So. Ry. Co. v. Pinson, 23 Fed. (2d) 247 (5th C. C. A.)	31
Konold v. R. G. W. Ry. Co., 21 Utah 379, 60 Pac. 1021.....	36, 38
Kreiger v. Shelby R. R. Co., 125 U. S. 39, 31 L. Ed. 675, 8 S. Ct. 752	5
Lee v. Central of Georgia Railway Co., 252 U. S. 109, 64 L. Ed. 482, 40 S. Ct. 254.....	5
Lisenba v. People of State of California, 314 U. S. 219, 86 L. Ed. 166, 62 S. Ct. 280	6
L. & N. R. Co. v. Holloway, 246 U. S. 525, 62 L. Ed. 867, 38 S. Ct. 379	5
McPherson v. Walling, 53 Cal. App. 563, 209 Pac. 209.....	35
Memphis Natural Gas Co. v. Beeler, 315 U. S. 649, 86 L. Ed. 1090, 62 S. Ct. 857.....	5
Meyers v. S. P. L. A. & S. L. R. Co., 36 Utah 307, 104 Pac. 736; 39 Utah 198, 116 Pac. 1119.....	24
Minneapolis & St. Louis R. Co. v. Bombolis, 241 U. S. 211, 60 L. Ed. 961, 36 S. Ct. 595.....	5
Murdock v. Memphis, 20 Wall 590, 633, 634, 22 L. Ed. 429	5
Owens v. Union Pacific R. Co., 319 U. S. 715, 87 L. Ed. 1683, 63 S. Ct. 1271	6, 11, 27, 32
Pippy v. O. S. L. R. Co., 79 Utah 439, 11 Pac. (2d) 305..	35

INDEX—Continued

	Page
Rocco v. Lehigh Valley R. Co., 288 U. S. 275, 77 L. Ed. 743, 53 S. Ct. 343	28
Rockport Coal Co. v. Barnard, 210 Ky. 5, 273 S. W. 533..	35
Roller v. Daleys, Inc., 219 Cal. 542, 28 Pac. (2d) 345.....	35
Sears v. Texas & N. O. Ry. Co., 247 S. W. 602, 266 S. W. 400	40
✓ Sorenson v. Bell, 51 Utah 262, 170 Pac. 72.....	36, 37
✓ State v. Waid, 92 Utah 297, 67 Pac. (2d) 647.....	36, 37
Tenant v. Peoria & P. U. Ry. Co., 321 U. S. 29, 88 L. Ed. 322, 64 S. Ct. 409.....	28
Texas and Pacific R. Co. v. Behymer, 189 U. S. 468, 47 L. Ed. 905, 23 S. Ct. 622.....	27
Tiller v. Atlantic Coast Line R. Co., 318 U. S. 54, 87 L. Ed. 446, 63 S. Ct. 444.....	11, 32
Virginia Ry. Co. v. Station, 84 Fed. (2d) 133 (4th C. C. A.)	32
H. D. Williams Cooperage Co. v. Headrick, 159 Fed. 680 (8th C. C. A.)	16
Wilkinson v. O. S. L. R. Co., 35 Utah 110, 99 Pac. 466....	35

STATUTES CITED

Federal Employers Liability Act, 45 U. S. C. Secs. 51-59; 35 Stat. 65, as amended; 36 Stat. 291; 53 Stat. 1404..	2
Judicial Code, Sec. 237, as amended by Act of February 13, 1925, c. 229, Sec. 1; 43 Stat. 937; 28 U. S. C. Sec. 344; Act of Feb. 13, 1925, c. 229, Sec. 8; 43 Stat. 940; 28 U. S. C. Sec. 350	2

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1944

No. 41

WILSON McCARTHY AND HENRY SWAN, TRUSTEES OF THE
DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,
A CORPORATION, AND THE DENVER & RIO GRANDE
WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY, A CORPORATION,

Petitioners,

vs.

E. E. BRUNER,

Respondent.

BRIEF OF PETITIONERS

Opinion of Courts Below

The verdict of the jury and the judgment of the trial court pursuant thereto were rendered on June 6, 1942 (R. 9-10). The only opinion by a court below is that of the Supreme Court of Utah which is set forth at R. 103-117, is not yet reported in the Utah reports, but appears at 142 Pac. (2d) 649.

Grounds on Which Jurisdiction of Supreme Court of the United States Is Invoked.

The judgment of the Supreme Court of Utah was rendered on October 25, 1943 (R. 117). Petition for rehearing was denied on December 27, 1943 (R. 117). Petition for writ of certiorari was filed on March 18, 1944, and was granted on May 1, 1944, 64 S. Ct. 1047. The judgment of the Supreme Court of Utah is based upon its application of the United States statute commonly called the Federal Employers Liability Act, 45 U. S. C. Secs. 51-59; 35 Stat. 65, as amended; 36 Stat. 291, and 53 Stat. 1404. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the United States is invoked under Section 237 of the Judicial Code, as amended by Act of February 13, 1925, c. 229, Sec. 1; 43 Stat. 937; 28 U. S. C. Sec. 344, and the Act of February 13, 1925, c. 229, Sec. 8; 43 Stat. 940; 28 U. S. C. Sec. 350. Petitioner claimed in the Supreme Court of Utah and here that the Utah court, in holding as matters of law that Respondent was not guilty of contributory negligence and that Petitioner was guilty of negligence, impaired the substantial rights of Petitioner. This raises a federal question.

Brady v. So. Ry. Co., 320 U. S. 476, 88 L. Ed. 189, 64 S. Ct. 232.

Garrett v. Moore-McCormack Co., 317 U. S. 239, 87 L. Ed. 239, 63 S. Ct. 246.

Statement of the Case

E. E. Bruner (herein called "Bruner"), an experienced engine hostler and hostler's helper (R. 16, 20), recovered judgment for \$30,000.00 against the Railroad under the Federal Employers Liability Act on account of the loss of his right leg below the knee resulting from an accident in the course of his employment as hostler helper with Wilson McCarthy and

Henry Swan, Trustees of The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company (herein called the "Railroad") in Grand Junction, Colorado, just before daylight on December 1, 1941 (R. 1-8). Bruner and his boss (R. 27, 91), Hostler Colosimo, were coaling two engines at the coal chute (R. 33). The engines were headed east, No. 1182 in the lead and No. 1149 in the rear (R. 28, 31). They were coupled together (R. 27). The coupling and relative positions of the two engines are shown in Exhibit 3 (R. 62A, admitted in evidence R. 62), and on Appendix A herein, which is an illustrative sketch not in evidence. The coal chute and track are shown on Exhibit B (R. 36A, admitted in evidence R. 35), and Exhibit E (R. 40A, admitted in evidence R. 40).

Prior to the engines being moved to the coal chute Colosimo and Bruner had handled the two engines and while other employees were cleaning the fires at the cinder pit, which is between the roundhouse and the coal chute, they discussed the movements to be made and the work to be done by each of them upon the engines (R. 31). Bruner was told and knew that the engines were to be removed to the sand house and then to the coal chute, which is north of the track leading from the roundhouse on which the accident occurred, and that Colosimo would coal 1149 and Bruner would coal 1182 (R. 31). Colosimo moved the two engines, using the power of 1149, to the coal chute and spotted 1149 under the chute for coal loading (R. 82). While Colosimo was placing the coal in 1149 Bruner checked the fire in 1182 (R. 53). Having checked the fire in engine 1182 when the two engines were stopped, Bruner's next duty was to get to the top of the tender of 1182 in order to spot it at the coal chute and put coal into it (R. 31, 41).

Colosimo, who was boss (R. 27, 91), told Bruner, who

understood that he must do as Colosimo told him (R. 27), to stay on 1182 and coal it after Colosimo had coaled 1149 (R. 81). Bruner testified that it was his duty to be in position to give signals to Colosimo to start the engine. (R. 28) Colosimo would have to be in the engineer's part of the cab in order to move the engine. (R. 65, 73) This was the right hand or south side of the engines. (R. 65) Accordingly Bruner should have remained on that side. Bruner nevertheless, without telling Colosimo, dismounted from 1182 on the left, the north side (R. 65, and see Appendix A), walked back of its tender and attempted to cross over the draw bars between the two engines for the purpose, as he himself testified, of getting on top of the tender of 1182 (R. 41). As Bruner was crossing over the draw bars Colosimo, assuming that Bruner was on 1182 (R. 101), started the engines and Bruner was thrown to the tracks where the wheels of 1182 passed over his leg (R. 41). There is no evidence, suggestion or contention in the record that Colosimo knew that Bruner was between the engines or intended to go between them.

As is more particularly shown in the argument, Bruner, who was in the cab of 1182, had several safe ways to get to the top of the tender of 1182 to spot and coal it without clambering over the draw bars or even dismounting from the engine. Bruner did not avail himself of any safe course, but chose to clamber over the draw bars. In that precarious position the first movement of the engines dislodged him (R. 41).

On appeal to the Supreme Court of Utah the Railroad relied upon the asserted errors (Statement of Errors Relied On¹

¹ In the present appellate practice before the Supreme Court of Utah there are no assignments of error. Formerly there were. See Rules of Supreme Court of Utah, Rule VI, 85 Utah page X. The current Rules of the Supreme Court of Utah, effective March 1, 1941, eliminated that rule and in Rule VIII relating to briefs provides merely for a Statement of Errors Relied On. See 100 Utah page XLV.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, R. 133) that the court in Instruction No. 6 (R. 10, 11) in effect told the jury that Bruner was not and could not be guilty of contributory negligence; and also relied upon the asserted errors (Statement of Errors Relied On Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7, R. 133, 134) that the court in Instructions 9 (R. 11, 12) and 20 (R. 12) improperly instructed the jury in failing to tell them to make proportionate deductions in damages if they found that Bruner was guilty of contributory negligence. The Supreme Court of Utah (*Mr. Justice Larson dissenting*, R. 116) disposed of the errors so relied on by reaching the conclusion as matter of law that Bruner was not guilty of contributory negligence (R. 107).²

² This court has repeatedly declared that it will generally regard the federal question as properly raised if the Supreme Court of the State regarded the question as properly raised according to its practice, as fairly before it for determination and decided it.

Murdock v. Memphis, 20 Wall, 590, 633, 634, 22 L. Ed. 429.
Kreiger v. Shelby R. R. Co., 125 U. S. 39, 31 L. Ed. 675, 8 S. Ct. 752.

Fox Film Co. v. Mullen, 296 U. S. 207, 80 L. Ed. 158, 56 S. Ct. 183.

Indiana v. Brand, 303 U. S. 95, 82 L. Ed. 685, 58 S. Ct. 443.
Memphis Natural Gas Co. v. Beeler, 315 U. S. 649, 86 L. Ed. 1090, 62 S. Ct. 857.

It is also the law that State Courts in Federal Employers Liability Act cases follow their own rules of practice and procedure and that this court does not interest itself therein unless matters nominally of procedure are actually matters of substance which affect the federal right.

Lee v. Central of Georgia Railway Co., 252 U. S. 109, 64 L. Ed. 482, 40 S. Ct. 254.

Minneapolis & St. Louis R. Co. v. Bombolis, 241 U. S. 211, 60 L. Ed. 961, 36 S. Ct. 595.

This court has specifically held that it is not concerned with matters of state practice with respect to instructions to the jury in Federal Employers Liability Act cases unless they involve the construction or application of the Act itself.

L. & N. R. Co. v. Holloway, 246 U. S. 525, 62 L. Ed. 867, 38 S. Ct. 379. On page 528 the court said:

* * * Nor need we determine whether the local rule of practice, that if instructions are offered upon any issue respecting which the jury should be instructed and they are incorrect in form or substance it is the duty of the trial court to prepare or direct

The Railroad also relied upon the asserted error (Statement of Errors Relied On No. 2, R. 133) that Instruction No. 6 (R. 10-11) improperly instructed the jury that Bruner was within the protection of two safety rules and that the court improperly instructed the jury in regard to safety rules inapplicable to the case. Those rules were as follows:

Rule 2057 provided:

Engine bell or whistle warning must be given before engines are moved, then wait at least one minute. (R. 5)

Rule 30 provided:

The bell must be rung when an engine is about to move and while approaching and passing stations, tunnels, snow sheds and public crossing at grade. (R. 4.)

The Utah Court stated (R. 108) that this Court considered the latter of these two rules in *Owens v. U. P. R. Co.*, 319 U. S. 715, 87 L. Ed. 1683, 63 S. Ct. 1271, but did not decide whether or not it was applicable to yard movements. The Utah Court stated that there was considerable doubt that these rules had

the preparation of a proper instruction upon the point in place of the defective one (see *Chesapeake & Ohio Ry. Co. v. De Atley*, 241 U. S. 310, 316) was applicable in the case at bar. That is a question of state law, with which we have no concern.

Central Vermont Ry. Co. v. White, 238 U. S. 507, 59 L. Ed. 1433, 35 S. Ct. 865.

It is the general rule that State courts are bound to proceed in such manner that all substantive rights of the parties under controlling Federal law are protected but that this court does not sit to review the propriety of the practice and procedure of the State courts.

Garrett v. Moore-McCormack Co., 317 U. S. 239, 87 L. Ed. 239, 63 S. Ct. 246.

Lisenba v. People of State of California, 314 U. S. 219, 86 L. Ed. 166, 62 S. Ct. 280.

For these reasons it is assumed that this court will not be interested in the details of how this federal question was raised and preserved in the State court. If the court is interested the details are set forth in Appendix B.

any application to the case at bar, but disposed of the errors so relied on by holding (*Mr. Justice Moffat dissenting*, R. 117) that it was not prejudicial error in any event because the Railroad was guilty of negligence as matter of law (R. 108, 110).²

Thus the Supreme Court of Utah held as matter of law that on the evidence introduced, the trial court would have been justified in peremptorily instructing the jury, thus eliminating those issues from the trial by jury, that the Railroad was guilty of negligence and that Bruner was not guilty of contributory negligence. It held that the Railroad was not entitled to a *fair* jury trial of those issues because it was not entitled to *any* jury trial of those issues.

Specification of Errors.

The Supreme Court of Utah erred in holding as matter of law that Respondent was not guilty of contributory negligence.

The Supreme Court of Utah erred in holding as matter of law that Petitioners were guilty of negligence.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

I. THE MAJORITY OPINION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH ERRED IN HOLDING AS MATTER OF LAW THAT RESPONDENT WAS NOT GUILTY OF CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE.

In so holding the Supreme Court of Utah disregarded evidence which would support a finding that Bruner was

² For the reasons stated in footnote (2) it is not expected that this Court will be interested in the details of how the points decided by the Supreme Court of Utah were raised and preserved. If the details are of interest they are set forth in Appendix C.

negligent in four particulars. There is substantial evidence that Bruner chose an unnecessarily hazardous way of proceeding from the cab to the tender of 1182; violated his duty to stay in sight of Colosimo so as to give signals; disobeyed instructions from Colosimo to stay on 1182; and failed to inform Colosimo that he was going to climb over the draw bars between 1149 and 1182.

Bruner knew that Colosimo was coaling the westerly engine 1149 and would in the very near future move both engines westerly so as to spot 1182 for coal loading by Bruner. Colosimo would use the power of 1149 for that purpose. He would operate in the Engineer's side of the cab of 1149 and therefore would be on the south side of 1149. It was Bruner's duty to be in a position where he could give Colosimo a signal to move the engines. This required Bruner to be on or along the south side of Engine 1182.

Bruner could have fulfilled that duty and also reached the top of the tender of 1182, by getting down from engine 1182 on the south side, walking back along the south side of the engine to the tender and then climbing up the ladder to the top. Thus he would have been within the sight of the cab of 1149 at all times and would not have had to climb over any couplers or draw bars because the ladder up the rear end of the tender of 1182 was also on the south side of the couplers and draw bars.

Bruner could also have proceeded from the cab of 1182 to the top of its tender in two other ways without dismounting from the engine at all and without getting out of Colosimo's sight except for a very short time. First, he could have gone up the coal gate at the front of the tender of 1182. Secondly, he could have gone out the front door of the cab and up over the top of the cab on to the tender.

Instead of performing his duty in one of these three ways and moving safely to the place of his next duty, Bruner dismounted from the engine on the north side, the side away from the engineer's side, in a position where he could not be seen and where he could not give a signal to Colosimo. From there he walked to the rear of the tender and then climbed over the draw bars and couplers to reach the ladder on the south side. This was awkward, dangerous and without the benefit of safety appliances for the purpose.

In so doing Bruner disregarded the instructions given him by his boss Colosimo, which Bruner testified he was under the duty of obeying. Colosimo testified that he told Bruner to stay on 1182 and assumed that Bruner was on 1182, Bruner also failed to inform Colosimo that he was getting off 1182 and crawling over the draw bars between the two engines.

II. THE MAJORITY OPINION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH ERRED IN HOLDING THAT THE RAILROAD WAS GUILTY OF NEGLIGENCE AS MATTER OF LAW.

The Supreme Court of Utah held that there was considerable doubt as to whether the two rules relied on by Bruner were applicable to this case; but that that question was immaterial because the evidence showed that there was a custom and practice to move engines only upon signal from the hostler helper and after the hostler sounded the whistle; and that the evidence of this custom and practice established that the Railroad was guilty of negligence as a matter of law.

As to whether the violation of custom and practice constitutes negligence per se or whether it is merely one fact to be submitted to the jury, depends upon the facts and circumstances

of the case. This has been held both by this court and by the Supreme Court of Utah.

Colosimo, regardless of such practice and custom, had good reason to think that Bruner would be on engine 1182 in a position of safety. He had told him to stay there and it was Bruner's duty to obey that instruction. Moreover, it was Bruner's duty to be in a position such that he could signal to Colosimo when Colosimo was in the engineer's side of the cab of 1149 ready to operate the engine. This would require Bruner to be on or along the south side of the engine. It was also safest for Bruner to move from the cab of 1182 to the top of its tender on or along the south side of the engine.

Colosimo as a reasonable man need not anticipate that Bruner, instead of obeying Colosimo's instructions, instead of performing his duty to be in a position to transmit the signal, would get off the engine on the north side, walk back and then climb over the couplers and draw bars to get to the ladder which was on the south side.

The Railroad does not need to contend that the Utah court should have held as matter of law that Colosimo as a reasonable man need not anticipate that Bruner might place himself in that position of danger. It is only necessary to contend that on that question there was substantial evidence and that it should not have been decided as matter of law.

ARGUMENT

(All *italics* are added.)

I.

THE MAJORITY OPINION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH ERRED IN HOLDING AS MATTER OF LAW

THAT RESPONDENT WAS NOT GUILTY OF CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE.

The majority opinion of the Supreme Court of Utah held that there was no evidence to show contributory negligence on the part of Bruner (R. 106) and therefore that the Railroad was not entitled to a *fair* jury trial of the issue of contributory negligence because it was not entitled to *any* jury trial of that issue. Mr. Justice Larson dissented. At R. 116 he said:

As I read the evidence and authorities, the question of contributory negligence on the part of plaintiff was a question for the jury.

In *Tiller v. Atlantic Coast Line R. Co.*, 318 U. S. 54, 87 L. Ed. 446, 63 S. Ct. 444; *Bailey v. Central Vermont Ry. Inc.*, 319 U. S. 350, 87 L. Ed. 1030, 63 S. Ct. 1062; *Owens v. Union Pacific R. Co.*, 319 U. S. 715, 87 L. Ed. 1683, 63 S. Ct. 1271, and *Brady v. Southern Railway Co.*, 320 U. S. 476, 88 L. Ed. 189, 64 S. Ct. 232, this Court held that questions should not be decided as matter of law where the evidence and tendencies of the proof are conflicting and that to withdraw them is violative of the rights of the employees or their dependents.

There is substantial evidence to support a finding that Bruner was guilty of contributory negligence in four particulars:

1. *Bruner chose an unnecessarily hazardous method of proceeding from the cab of engine 1182 to the top of the tender.*
2. *Bruner's choice of ways was in violation of the duty, which he testified he was under, to be in position to give signals to Colosimo.*

3. *There is evidence that Bruner disregarded the instructions of his boss in getting off engine 1182.*

4. *Bruner failed to inform his boss that he was going to clamber over the draw bars and coupler between engines 1182 and 1149.*

1. *Bruner chose an unnecessarily hazardous method of proceeding from the cab of engine 1182 to the top of the tender.*

The majority opinion of the Utah Court at R. 105 states:

* * * In order for the plaintiff to take coal on engine 1182 it was necessary for him to be on top of the tender. There were several methods by which he could have climbed there. At the point where he was standing at the rear of the north side of the tender there was no ladder leading to the top of the tender. However, immediately across from this point on the rear of the south side of the tender there was such a ladder. To reach this ladder there were at least two direct methods he could have used. One would have been to cross over the pilot (a flat platform on the front of the engine) on Engine 1149. The other way, the way he chose to go, was to climb over the draw bar between the two engines which were coupled together.

* * * It was the plaintiff's duty to get on top of the tender on Engine 1182. He chose a manner of getting there which is not shown by the evidence to be either unusual or dangerous. In fact, the only evidence is that which he gave that he had often used this route and that it was a common practice among yardmen to do so. (R. 106.)

* * * While it may be, as defendants argue in their brief, that the manner chosen was highly dangerous, there is no evidence to show this. We must conclude that the record does not show contributory negligence. (R. 106-107)

The majority opinion of the Utah Court, when it reached the question of whether Bruner chose an unusual and dangerous way of getting on top of the tender of Engine 1182, placed Bruner at the rear of the north side of the tender. After so placing him, it points out that there was no ladder at that corner leading to the top of the tender and concludes that it was therefore necessary for him to cross from the north side to the south side. But Bruner did not start from the rear of the north side of the tender. He came to that point only enroute from the cab of Engine 1182 to the top of the tender (R. 41). There was no reason for Bruner to be on the north side of the engine or at the rear of the north side of the engine. He was in the cab of the engine when his duty required him to get to the top of the tender (R. 41).

At the time the two engines commenced backing from the sand house to the coal chute Bruner was on the south running board of Engine 1182 (R. 31-32). Bruner then moved back along the south running board through the door into the cab of the engine and when the engine stopped he was in the cab of Engine 1182 (R. 41, 60). Being in the cab of the engine when it stopped, he checked the fire (R. 41). His next duty was to get to the top of the tender of 1182 in order to take coal from the coal chute (R. 41).

There were five different ways for him to reach his objective.

First. Without dismounting from the engine he could have moved straight back from the cab climbing up the coal gate of the tender, which is directly back of the gangway. (R. 99, 100). This was the most direct and easiest way of reaching his objective.

At R. 100, Colosimo testified as follows:

A. Yes, sir. Some of them—they have so many ways of working—*some of them crawl up over the gates and get into them.*

For the better understanding of the court there is set forth in Appendix A a sketch illustrative generally of Engine 1182 with its tender, coupled to Engine 1149, and marked thereon by different types of lines are the various methods of moving from the cab to the tender. This sketch is not in evidence. It is illustrative of the situation involved which was established by the evidence. The solid black line marked No. 1 shows the direct route back from the cab up the coal gate on to the top of the tender.

Second. Without dismounting from the engine he could move from the cab through the door leading to the running board and thence over the top of the cab to the tender. It was customary practice for enginemen to move from the running board over the cab on to the tender. At R. 85 Colosimo testified as follows:

Q. How did the hostler's helper get onto the tank to take coal on that front locomotive, after moving from the sand house?

A. Most of them are over the cab into the tender.

Q. How do they get over the cab?

A. They climb up on the boiler and just step right up on the cab there.

This second method, although more circuitous than the first, did not involve dismounting from the engine. Colosimo testified that this was the easiest way for Bruner to get on to the tender from the running board (R. 101). In Appendix A it is shown by the dotted line marked No. 2.

Third. Bruner could have dismounted from the engine on the south side, which was the same side on which the ladder going up the rear of the tank is placed, walked back on the ground along the south side of the engine to the ladder, and climbed the ladder on to the tender.⁴ This was not as easy as the first or second methods, but it did not involve dismounting from the engine on the wrong side and then crawling over the draw bar. The third way is shown on Appendix A by the line of dashes marked No. 3.

Fourth. The fourth way, and that chosen by Bruner, was to dismount from the engine on the north side, which is the side away from that on which the ladder goes up the back of the tank, walk back along the wrong side of the engine to the north rear corner and then clamber over the draw bar. This course is shown on Appendix A by the line of crosses marked No. 4.⁵ It was only after he chose this way and reached the north rear corner of the tank that he came enroute to the place where the majority opinion of the Utah Court places him when it describes his choice of routes preliminary to its conclusion that his choice was neither unusual nor dangerous.

Fifth. Even after reaching the rear of the tender on the north side and deciding to cross through two live engines, Bruner had a perfectly safe way open to him, as is shown by Exhibit 3 (R. 62A, introduced in evidence at R. 62). This was to mount the step on the north side of the pilot of Engine No. 1149,

⁴ As shown on the sketch, Appendix A, this ladder is nearer the center of the rear of 1182 than it is in fact, as shown on Exhibit A (R. 34A, introduced in evidence R. 34), and Exhibit F (R. 74A, introduced in evidence R. 74).

⁵ The line of crosses on this rough sketch can be seen through the tender of 1182, indicating Bruner's movement on the north or left hand side of 1182.

step up to the pilot deck, take hold of the circular handhold around the front of the boiler of 1149, cross the deck, step down to the footstep on the south side, step across to the south footstep at the rear of the tender of 1182 and climb up the ladder at the rear of 1182. Exhibit 3 clearly shows all of this. The front of 1149 is designed for such a maneuver, as shown by the circular handhold. The rear of 1182 is not so designed, as is shown by the absence of a horizontal handhold at a convenient height. This way is shown on Appendix A by the line of alternate crosses and dashes marked No. 5.

It is true that Bruner could, within the realm of reason, choose his course, but that choice may not be a capricious, whimsical or outrageous choice. It is elementary in the law of principal and agent that although an agent may have latitude in choice of methods, yet he may not choose an outrageous method. If he does and it is dangerous, he is guilty of negligence. It is well established that it is negligence for an agent to choose a dangerous way of doing a thing when safe ways are open to him.

Atlantic Coast Line R. Co. v. Davis, 279 U. S. 34,
73 L. Ed. 601, 49 S. Ct. 210.

*Fritz v. The Salt Lake and Ogden Gas and Electric
Light Co.*, 18 Utah 493, 56 Pac. 90.

Beulah Coal Mining Co. v. Verbrugh, 292 Fed. 34,
(8th C. C. A.).

H. D. Williams Cooperage Co. v. Headrick, 159
Fed. 680 (8th C. C. A.).

The evidence shows that Bruner chose an unusual and dangerous way. Exhibit A (R. 34A, introduced in evidence at R. 34) shows the rear end of the tender of Engine No. 1182. The distance between the rails on which it stands is four feet eight and one-half inches, standard gauge. It can be seen

from the picture that the tender overhangs the rail approximately two feet on each side. The ladder on the right hand side overhangs the right hand rail. The only handhold for Bruner to use in mounting from the ground on the left hand side to the cross beam is vertical and extends downward to the left of the left rear corner of the tender of 1182. The distance from that handhold to the ladder is apparently between five and six feet.

It can been seen from Exhibit F (R. 74A, introduced in evidence at R. 74) that there is no horizontal handhold crossing from the ladder, on the right, to the vertical handhold on the left, designed or convenient for the use of men crossing over the draw bar or on the cross beam. The only horizontal handhold on the rear of the tender of 1182 is that which is shown on Exhibits A and F (R. 34A and 74A) crossing immediately above the cross beam. There are two rods shown crossing immediately above the cross beam. The lower one is the rod which controls the pin lift lever. (R. 61) Immediately above that is the handhold provided for trainmen standing on the footsteps at the rear of 1182. (R. 61-62, 75)

It is a permissible inference from Bruner's testimony that he intended to move from the north to the south side by moving along the cross beam immediately under the pin lift lever rod, shown on Exhibit A (R. 34A) and Exhibit F (R. 74A), rather than by crawling over the draw bar from one脚步 to the other at the rear end of the tender of 1182 (R. 75). Examination of Exhibits 3, A and F (R. 62A, 34A and 74A) will demonstrate that either way is awkward, clumsy and dangerous. Also they disclose that such movement is not contemplated by the design of the safety appliance steps and handholds.

Inspection of Exhibit 3 (R. 62A) shows that Bruner's

evidence, given in response to leading questions by his own counsel, that it is common practice to move from one side of 1182 to the other along the cross beam, is ridiculous and not entitled to serious consideration. Particularly is this so in view of Bruner's reluctance to answer leading and suggestive questions put to him by his own counsel. At R. 75, 76 he testified as follows:

Q. You may state whether or not, in the course of your employment as a hostler, or a hostler's helper and fireman, you have occasion to cross from one side to the other of an engine coupled to a tender, and to pass over the drawbar?

A. Yes, many times I have had occasion to. I did so many times. It is a common practice to get off and go up that way.

Q. *There is no effort at all?*

A. *I have had occasion to.*

His counsel attempted to induce Bruner to testify that it was "no effort at all." Bruner would only go so far as to say, "*I have had occasion to.*"

It can be seen from Exhibit 3 that there is very little space, certainly not enough for an adult human foot clothed in a shoe to rest on that beam between the handhold and the rear end of the tank. It can be seen that a person attempting to move across that beam would be entangled in the pin lift lever rod and the handhold. It is evident that it would be a clumsy, awkward and dangerous movement. It cannot be contended that, in moving across on the cross beam, safety can be secured by holding on to the handhold provided for men riding the footsteps of 1182. A man attempting so to do would be leaning over in a position such that his hands would be just above

his feet, almost certain to fall whether the engine moved or not.

If Bruner's evidence means that he crawled over the draw bar from one footstep to the other, Exhibits 3, A and F show that that also was awkward, clumsy and dangerous. The draw bar would be almost waist high. It is also quite wide. Such a crossing is obviously not contemplated by the design of the safety appliance handholds. Handholds are provided wherever railroad men are supposed to hold on to prevent that very result. If Engine 1182 had been designed with the intention that trainmen would cross from the left hand side to the right hand side, along the cross beam, there would have been a horizontal handhold at a suitable height to hold on to while so doing, as well as a suitable footway much broader than the cross beam. Inspection of all of the pictures in evidence shows handholds wherever trainmen are supposed to hold on engines. Thus Exhibit 1 (R. 56A, introduced in evidence at R. 55) shows the handhold along the boiler to support enginemen moving on the running boards. The front of Engine 1182 shown on Exhibit 1 shows a handhold around the circumference of the front of the boiler and also a handhold across the pilot. Exhibit F shows a handhold at the right rear corner of the tank and at the left rear corner of the tank and a horizontal handhold running across the tank immediately above the cross beam. There is, however, no horizontal handhold shown across the top of the tank at a height designed to be used by a man moving across the rear of the tank of 1182.

It is submitted that Exhibits 3, A and F show that it was unusual and dangerous for Bruner to cross either along the cross beam or clamber over the draw bar, and that the evidence

demonstrates that Bruner chose a dangerous way when safe ways were available and thus under the law announced by this Court there was substantial evidence from which the jury would have been justified in finding that Bruner was guilty of contributory negligence.

The Supreme Court of Utah said (R. 106, 107) that there was no evidence to show that this was dangerous. The physical facts are shown by the pictures, Exhibits 3, A and F. What further evidence could there be? The opinion or conclusion of some witness? It would be objectionable as such. If the issue were whether a person was negligent in crossing over a third rail in a subway and pictures of the physical facts were in evidence, would it be necessary to have some witness express the opinion that it is dangerous? It is submitted that the physical facts and circumstances are real evidence and that the situation involved does not justify or require the opinion of an expert to aid the jury in perceiving the danger.

It is submitted that the above is sufficient evidence to sustain a finding of contributory negligence.

2. Bruner's choice of ways was in violation of the duty, which he testified he was under, to be in position to give signals to Colosimo.

Bruner testified that it was his duty to be wherever he had to be to give signals so they would be seen by the hostler Colosimo. At R. 28 Bruner testified as follows:

Q. Where would the helper be?

A. Wherever his work was to be, he would be wherever he had to be to give the signals so they would be seen.

The next move after 1149 was coaled was for Colosimo

to move the two engines westerly to spot 1182 in position to be coaled. (R. 83) This would be done by Colosimo in the engineer's side of the cab of 1149. (R. 65, 73) This was the right hand or south side of the cab. (R. 65) Colosimo, in the engineer's side of the cab of 1149, could see Bruner if Bruner were on that same side of the engines. Colosimo could not see Bruner if Bruner were on the left hand or north side of the engines. (R. 73, Appendix A.)

As is shown above, Bruner could have dismounted from engine 1182 on the south side and moved back along the south side to the rear of 1182. If he had done so he would have been in sight of Colosimo in the engineer's side of the cab of 1149. By so doing Bruner would have been fulfilling his duty, which he himself said he was under, of being in position to give Colosimo a signal.

Nevertheless Bruner dismounted from the left hand or north side of 1182 where he couldn't be seen by Colosimo and could not give a signal to Colosimo. (R. 73) Thus, according to his own testimony, he violated his duty.

The Railroad's contention does not go to the extent of claiming that Bruner could never get out of sight of the engineer's cab of 1149. No doubt he could do so in the performance of other duties. But at the moment in question Bruner had completed his work on 1182 except to coal it. The next thing to be done was to move the engines so as to spot 1182 for coaling. According to Bruner that move would be made only on signal from Bruner to Colosimo. (R. 24, 27) Why then, if Bruner decided to get down from the engine at all, didn't he get down on the south side, the engineer's side of 1149 where Colosimo in the cab could see him? It was easier than the north side because it didn't involve crossing over the draw bars. It was safer, as shown above under I-1.

It is submitted that this was evidence sufficient to justify a finding of contributory negligence.

3. There is evidence that Bruner disregarded the instructions of his boss in getting off engine 1182.

The evidence is uncontradicted that Colosimo was the boss and that it was Bruner's duty to obey his instructions. There is also evidence from which the jury could find that Colosimo instructed Bruner to stay on Engine 1182 and that it was negligent of Bruner to disregard that order.

Colosimo was in charge of the activities of Bruner. He was the boss (R. 27). Bruner recognized that. At R. 27 he said:

Q. Who is the boss?

A. The hostler, always, with the hostler helper. The hostler helper has to do whatever the hostler tells him to do.

Q. You may state whether or not you worked under the direction of Mr. Colosimo during this shift?

A. Yes, whatever he told me to do, that is what I did, and my business to do.

At R. 50 he said:

Q. That was a part of your duties?

A. My duty was to do whatever he told me to.

At R. 81 Colosimo testified as follows:

I told him for him to sand 1182 and stay on her and coal her, and at the same time I would take care of the 1149.

Colosimo testified at R. 102 as follows:

A. I just told him to stay on the 1182. That is

what I told him, just to stay on the 1182, and I would take care of the 1149.

On recross-examination Colosimo testified as follows:

By Mr. Black:

Q. All you meant by that was that you would take care of 1149, and Bruner would take care of 1182?

A. Yes, sir (R. 102).

Counsel for Bruner have argued that merely because Colosimo on recross-examination testified that all he meant was that Bruner would take care of 1182 negatives the plain meaning of what he told Bruner. Colosimo told Bruner to stay on 1182 and coal it. Bruner's counsel asked Colosimo what he meant. Of course, what he meant by the words he spoke is immaterial. The material thing is what the words would mean to an ordinary railroad man. The Utah Court used Colosimo's statement as to what he meant to render completely impotent the ordinary meaning of what he said and concluded that therefore as a matter of law Colosimo did not direct Bruner to stay on the engine (R. 106). Bruner himself did not take this view of the evidence that Colosimo directed him to stay on the engine, because he denied that Colosimo so instructed him (R. 70-71). Thus there was a conflict in the evidence as to whether Colosimo instructed Bruner to stay on the engine. Colosimo said "Yes." Bruner said "No." The holding of the majority opinion of the Utah Court is that even though the jury might find that Colosimo did say, "*stay on the engine and coal it*," this should be taken by Bruner to mean only "*coal it*" because on cross-examination Colosimo said that was all he meant and, therefore, the jury should not be permitted to find that it meant anything else.

This attributes to Colosimo's statement the effect of an admission by defendants. It is as if the court reasoned, "Colosimo states that what he said meant only, 'coal it,' therefore defendants are bound by it." This is unwarranted. No foundation was laid constituting Colosimo's statement an admission.

Meyers v. S. P. L. A. & S. L. R. Co., 36 Utah 307, 104 Pac. 736; 39 Utah 198, 116 Pac. 1119.

It is submitted that the jury could have found that Colosimo instructed Bruner to stay on Engine 1182, that it was Bruner's duty to obey Colosimo and that Bruner disobeyed. Was this contributory negligence? Consider the conditions under which the order was given. The hostler Colosimo and his helper Bruner were preparing these engines for service. They had been brought from the round house. (R. 31, 79) They were moved to the cinder pit to have the fires cleaned. (R. 31, 80) They were moved to the sand house and supplied with sand. (R. 31, 80) Then they were moved to the coal chute to be loaded with coal. (R. 31) Then they would be moved to the water spout to be supplied with water and finally they would be taken to the point where they would be used. (R. 51, 80.) It was a process of movement from one point to another. Bruner was an experienced hostler helper. (R. 17) He knew what was to be done. (R. 31) He knew that coal was to be put in both engines. (R. 33) The two engines could not be coaled at the same time. (R. 55) Bruner knew that after Colosimo coaled 1149 he would have to move the engines so that Bruner could coal 1182. (R. 55) It was really the duty of the hostler helper to put coal in the engines. (R. 45, 50) But Colosimo told Bruner that he would coal 1149 and for Bruner "just to stay on 1182." Why did Col-

simo so do? Is it not a fair inference that it was to expedite the work? Colosimo was on 1149 and would coal it instead of Bruner; then Colosimo would move the two engines and Bruner would coal 1182; and then they would move the engines away from the coal chute. Thus Bruner knew that as soon as Colosimo finished coaling 1149 it would be in order for Colosimo to move both engines so that Bruner could coal 1149. Colosimo had told Bruner to sand 1182 and "stay on her and coal her." Under those circumstances, Bruner as a reasonable man should have realized that Colosimo might expect Bruner to stay on 1182 and that he could safely move the engines.

It is submitted that the evidence was sufficient to sustain a finding of contributory negligence.

4. Bruner failed to inform his boss that he was going to clamber over the draw bars and coupler between engines 1182 and 1149.

If, however, Bruner had some reason to disregard the instruction of Colosimo to stay on 1182 and to clamber over the couplers and draw bars of two live engines, which he knew were to be moved in the near future, he should have notified Colosimo of his intention. It is submitted that the finder of facts would be justified in concluding that it was a lack of ordinary care for him to fail so to do.

II.

THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH ERRED IN HOLDING THAT PETITIONERS WERE GUILTY OF NEGLIGENCE AS MATTER OF LAW.

The Railroad relied upon the error (R. 133) that the trial court in Instruction No. 6 told the jury that Bruner had

the right to presume and *act upon the presumption* that Colosimo would obey and not violate Rule 2057 reading as follows:

Engine bell or whistle warning must be given before engines are moved, then wait at least one minute.

and Rule 30 reading as follows:

The bell must be rung when an engine is about to move and while approaching and passing stations, tunnels, snow sheds and public crossing at grade.

The Railroad contended that the instruction was erroneous because the rules were inapplicable to the case at bar. (See Appendix C) The Supreme Court of Utah avoided that question by reasoning that, entirely aside from the rules, there was a practice or custom established by Bruner's evidence that engines would be moved only on signal and then only after giving a signal (R. 108-110), and that the trial court would have been justified in directing a verdict for plaintiff, thus holding as matter of law that the Railroad was guilty of negligence. (R. 110)

Mr. Justice Moffat dissented, stating that he thought the evidence does not establish negligence as a matter of law. (R. 117)

It can not be argued that such a practice or custom is wholly inflexible and could not be departed from even by agreement between the workers involved. Suppose for example that Bruner and Colosimo expressly agreed that Bruner was to stay in the cab of the engine and that Colosimo would move the engines without signal or whistle as soon as he finished coaling 1149. It would hardly be contended that under such circumstances moving the engine without signal or whistle would constitute negligence as to Bruner.

Customs and practices do not rise to higher authority than express rules and regulations. They are at most informal rules. The master has not decreed and promulgated them. The workmen have themselves merely established a practical method.⁶

Far from being binding or inflexible, custom and practice are admissible, if at all, only as some evidence of what ought to have been done in the exercise of reasonable care.

Texas and Pacific R. Co. v. Behymer, 189 U. S. 468, 47 L. Ed. 905, 23 S. Ct. 622. On page 470 the court said:

* * * What usually is done may be evidence of what ought to be done, but what ought to be done is fixed by a standard of reasonable prudence, whether it usually is complied with or not.

The Supreme Court of Utah has said that violation of a safety rule does not necessarily constitute negligence as a matter of law and that whether it does so or not depends upon the facts and circumstances of each case.

⁶ In *Owens v. Union Pacific R. Co.*, supra, this court declined to consider the propriety of the court's instruction regarding the applicability and effect of Rule 30 because the Court of Appeals did not reach that question. So in the case at bar the Supreme Court of Utah did not reach similar questions with respect to Rules 30 and 2057. It is therefor assumed that this court will find no occasion to decide the question.

If this court does consider the question and decides that they are applicable, the Railroad relies on the same argument herein made as to custom and practice. Indeed the cases cited for the proposition that disregard of a custom or practice is merely one circumstance to be submitted to the jury are cases involving disregard of rules. They are relied on by analogy for the proposition that disregard of a practice or custom is merely one circumstance to be considered by the jury.

If the court is interested in the Railroad's argument that Instruction No. 6 erroneously assumes as matter of law that Bruner at the time of the accident was within the protection of Rules 30 and 2057 it is set forth in Appendix D.

Allison v. McCarthy et al., 147 Pac. (2d) 870, Utah (not yet officially reported). On page 872 the court said:

The following cases are in harmony with the view point that whether or not a violation of a safety rule constitutes negligence as a matter of law or is a question for the jury depends upon the facts and circumstances of each case.

One case cited by the Utah court for the foregoing proposition is *Rocco v. Lehigh Valley R. Co.*, 288 U. S. 275, 77 L. Ed. 743, 53 S. Ct. 343, in which this court held that violation of a safety rule by Rocco was one circumstance for consideration of the jury and did not hold that it established negligence as matter of law.

Such also was the effect given by this court to a violation of a rule requiring the sounding of a whistle before moving an engine (the very same rule involved in the case at bar) in *Tennant v. Peoria & P. U. Ry. Co.*, 321 U. S. 29, 88 L. Ed. 322, 64 S. Ct. 409, in which the court said, page 411:

As to the proof of negligence, the court below correctly held that it was sufficient to present a jury question. In view of respondent's own rule that a bell must be rung "when an engine is about to move," it was not unreasonable for the jury to conclude that the failure to ring the bell under these circumstances constituted negligence. This was not an operation where bell ringing might be termed unnecessary or indiscriminate as a matter of law.

There were facts and circumstances in the case at bar which made it a jury question as to whether Colosimo, in the exercise of reasonable care, should have followed the customs and practices of awaiting Bruner's signal to move and giving a warning whistle signal.

As is shown under I, 2, Bruner testified that it was his duty to be in a position to give hostler Colosimo signals to move the engines. And it is demonstrated that Bruner could not perform that duty on the north side of the engine. There is also the evidence of Colosimo that he could have seen Bruner if Bruner was on top of the tender of 1182 if Bruner was showing a light. Under the evidence, to perform that duty Bruner would have to be either on the ground on the south side of the engines or on the south side of the engines.

Would not the jury be justified under the evidence in finding that Bruner should have been in such position? Would it not be justified in finding that Colosimo, in the exercise of reasonable care, need not anticipate the possibility of Bruner getting down on the north or left hand side of the engines, out of sight and unable to give a signal to Colosimo?

Moreover, there is evidence that would justify the jury in finding that Colosimo told Bruner to stay on 1182. (R. 81) It is uncontradicted in the evidence that if Colosimo did tell Bruner to stay on the engines, it was Bruner's duty to obey. (R. 27) Thus the jury under the evidence could have found that Colosimo, the boss, told Bruner to stay on 1182; that it was Bruner's duty to obey; that Colosimo had the right to assume, as he testified he did (R. 101) that Bruner would stay on 1182, would not get down on to the ground, and was therefore on engine 1182 in a position of safety; that Colosimo as a reasonable man was not under the necessity of anticipating that Bruner in violation of his duty and Colosimo's instruction had climbed down on the north, the wrong side, and walked back and was clambering over the draw bars between 1149 and 1182; and that Colosimo as a reasonable man was justified in thinking, as he says he did (R. 101), that Bruner was on the tender of 1182.

It is well settled law that in determining whether a defendant is guilty of negligence, it is necessary that he anticipate only such possibilities as may be reasonably expected.

A. T. & S. F. Ry. Co. v. Calhoun, 213 U. S. 1, 53 L. Ed. 671, 29 S. Ct. 321. On page 9 the court said:

* * * It becomes necessary, therefore, to inquire whether the defendant was negligent in leaving the truck there. But even where the highest degree of care is demanded, still the one from whom it is due is bound to guard only against those occurrences which can reasonably be anticipated by the utmost foresight. It has been well said that "if men went about to guard themselves against every risk to themselves or others which might by ingenious conjecture be conceived as possible human affairs could not be carried on at all. The reasonable man, then, to whose ideal behavior we are to look as the standard of duty, will neither neglect what he can forecast as probable, nor waste his anxiety on events that are barely possible. He will order his precaution by the measure of what appears likely in the known course of things." Pollock on Torts, 8th ed. 41.

And on page 10:

* * * There was a wooden platform by the track at the station 100 feet more or less in length. The truck was left at the very end of this platform, with the greater part off it. The train was at rest, so that no part of it from which passengers might be expected to get off or on was near the truck. It was, of course, dark at the point where the truck was, but no one could foresee that passengers intending to leave or enter the train would be at that point. No amount of human foresight which could reasonably be exacted as a duty could anticipate that a passenger, after the train had started, would run a distance of from 75 to 100 feet with the purpose of boarding a train moving with increasing rapidity, much less that a person would take a helpless infant and while thus running attempt to place it on the train. *We are of the opinion that the railroad was*

not bound to foresee and guard against such extraordinary conduct, and that its failure to do so was not negligence. For these reasons the judgment must be reversed.

So in the case at bar it is submitted that the jury could under the evidence have found that Colosimo in the exercise of reasonable care was not bound to foresee and guard against the extraordinary conduct of Bruner in violating both his duty and the instruction given him by Colosimo, was not bound to anticipate that Bruner would unnecessarily place himself in the hazardous position of clambering over the draw bars.

The principle above relied on from the Calhoun case is entirely distinct from the law of proximate cause and has been repeatedly so applied.⁷

Kansas City So. Ry. Co. v. Pinson, 23 Fed. (2d) 247, (5th C. C. A.)

⁷ The Calhoun case is especially interesting because in it are separately discussed two distinct principles of the law of negligence which are sometimes confused.

First, There is a principle of the law relating to proximate cause (discussed on pages 7 and 8) that an actor who puts in motion a train of circumstances is not liable for consequences of his act which are not natural and probable consequences and which ought not to have been foreseen by a reasonably prudent man. This court applied that principle to the negligence alleged against the railroad that it was negligent in not giving the mother of the injured child a reasonable opportunity to detrain. This court held that it was not a natural and probable consequence of such failure that a man to whom she handed the child from the moving train would hand it to another, who would chase the train and try to put the child back on. The Railroad in the case at bar bases no contention on this principle.

Second, There is a principle of the law of negligence (discussed on pages 9 and 10), that the duty to exercise care does not extend to anticipating occurrences which are not reasonably to be anticipated. This court applied that principle to the allegation that the railroad was negligent in leaving a baggage truck on the platform on which the man chasing the train stumbled thus causing the injury to the child. This court held that the railroad was not negligent in leaving the truck in that position because it was not reasonably to be anticipated that injury would result therefrom. That is the principle on which the Railroad in the case at bar bases its present contention.

Fort Smith Gas Co. v. Cloud, 75 Fed. (2d) 413,
(8th C. C. A.)

Virginia Ry. Co. v. Station, 84 Fed. (2d) 133
(4th C. C. A.)

C. St. P. M. & O. Ry. Co. v. Elliott, 55 Fed. 949
(8th C. C. A.)

The Railroad is not contending, as was held in some of the above cited cases, that it should be held as matter of law that Colosimo as a reasonable man need not have anticipated that Bruner might be in a position of danger, and that the jury would not be permitted so to find. Its contention is that there were facts and circumstances such that it should not have been decided by the Supreme Court of Utah as matter of law that Colosimo was negligent and that the trial court would have been justified in directing a verdict for the plaintiff on that issue.

The evidence of the custom and practice as to giving signals, the duty of Bruner to be in a position to give signals, the facts with respect to the methods of getting from the cab of 1182 on to the tender should be questions of fact for the determination of the jury—not decided as matter of law.

Tiller v. Atlantic Coast Line R. Co., supra

Bailey v. Central Vermont Ry. Inc., supra.

Owens v. Union Pacific R. Co., supra

Brady v. Southern Ry. Co., supra

It is submitted that the decision of the Supreme Court of Utah violates the principles announced in those cases.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the judgment of the Supreme Court of Utah should be reversed.

P. T. FARNSWORTH, JR.,

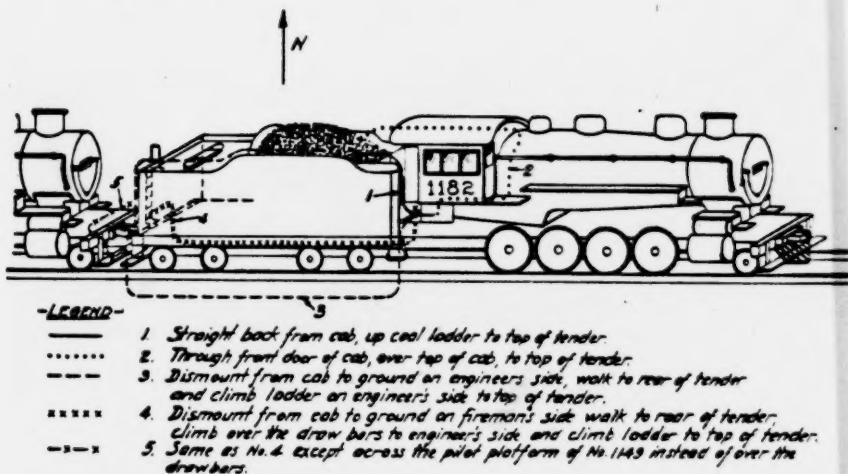
W. Q. VAN COTT,

Counsel for Petitioners.





Appendix - A





APPENDIX B

The decision by the Supreme Court of Utah that Bruner, as matter of law, was not guilty of contributory negligence disposed of exceptions taken in the trial court and errors relied on in the Supreme Court as follows: The trial court in Instruction No. 6 told the jury that Bruner had the right to assume that the engines would not be moved without signal; that Bruner had the right to presume that the rules and regulations of the Railroad would not be violated; and that Bruner had the right to act upon such presumption. (R. 10) The railroad excepted to Instruction No. 6 and to each part thereof. (R. 11)

Instruction No. 6 was clearly erroneous in telling the jury that Bruner could assume and presume and act upon such presumption that the engine would not be moved and that rules and regulations would be observed. To hold that Bruner might thus presume and act would absolve Bruner from the duty of exercising due care for his own protection. It violates the fundamental rule applied in every variety of negligence case that plaintiff as well as defendant must exercise due care and is not relieved from that duty merely because it has been disregarded by the other party.

Wilkinson v. O. S. L. R. Co., 35 Utah 110, 99 Pac. 466
Pippy v. O. S. L. R. Co., 79 Utah 439, 11 Pac. (2d) 305
Rockport Coal Co. v. Barnard, 210 Ky. 5, 273 S. W. 533
McPherson v. Walling, 53 Cal. App. 563, 209 Pac. 209
Roller v. Daleys, Inc., 219 Cal. 542, 28 Pac. (2d) 345
Hutson v. So. Cal. Ry. Co., 150 Cal. 701, 89 Pac. 1093

Merely because the trial court may have instructed the jury in some other instruction with respect to contributory negligence does not cure the error in this instruction under the decisions of the Supreme Court of Utah.

Sorenson v. Bell, 51 Utah 262, 170 Pac. 72

State v. Waid, 92 Utah 297, 67 Pac. (2d) 647

Konold v. R. G. W. Ry. Co., 21 Utah 379, 60 Pac. 1021

On appeal to the Supreme Court of Utah the Railroad, in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of its Statement of Errors Relied On, (R. 133) contended that prejudicial error was committed in the giving of such instruction.

The Supreme Court of Utah avoided the error thus disclosed by holding that under the evidence as matter of law Bruner was not guilty of contributory negligence. (R. 106, 107)

In paragraph I of the Petition for Rehearing (R. 135) the Railroad contended that the Supreme Court of Utah erred in so holding.

In Instructions Nos. 9 and 20 (R. 11, 12) the court instructed the jury that if it found in favor of Bruner on the issue of liability "he would be *entitled to receive as compensation for such loss and impairment of future earning power, the value or equivalent of said loss and impairment of future earning power if paid now in a lump sum,*" etc. This mandate to the jury was unconditional. The jury could not obey that mandate and also make any deduction for contributory negligence, however gross such contributory negligence may have been.

Even were it not well settled in Utah as elsewhere that an erroneous instruction on a material point cannot be cured by

another contradictory instruction, this charge of the trial court would constitute reversible error. This is true because a statement elsewhere in the instructions that a deduction should be made from the aggregate amount of damages suffered by plaintiff for any contributory negligence on his part, does not negative the unconditional direction that plaintiff must "receive" the full present value of one element of his damage, to wit, "loss and impairment of future earning power."

In *Sorenson et al. v. Bell*, 51 Utah 262, 170 Pac. 72, the trial court gave conflicting instructions relative to the burden of proof with respect to contributory negligence. In reversing the judgment of that court because of such error, the Utah Supreme Court says at pages 265-6 of the Utah report:

True, counsel point to other portions of the charge wherein, they contend, the rule respecting the burden of proof is correctly stated. If that be conceded, it still does not minimize, much less cure, the palpable error contained in the foregoing instruction. At most it would merely present a case where two instructions were given upon the same subject, one proper and the other improper. Where such is the case, and the evidence is conflicting upon the subject covered by the instructions, or is such that more than one conclusion is permissible, and the record leaves it in doubt whether the jury followed the instruction that is proper or the one that is improper, then but one result is legally permissible in this court, and that is to reverse the judgment and grant a new trial to the aggrieved party. The district court no doubt had in mind correct principles of law when it framed the instruction, but in stating those principles it used language which cast a burden on plaintiffs which the law does not require of them. The instruction is therefore clearly erroneous.

In *State v. Waid*, 92 Utah 297, 67 Pac. (2d) 647, the Su-

preme Court of Utah quotes its language in *Sorenson v. Bell*, at page 307 of the Utah report and then continues on page 307 as follows:

"Instructions on a material point in the case which are inconsistent or contradictory should not be given. The giving of such instructions is error, and a sufficient ground of reversal, because it is impossible, after verdict, to ascertain which instruction the jury followed, or what influence the erroneous instruction had in their deliberation. This has been so uniformly held that citations are unnecessary."

Accord: *Konold v. R. G. W. Ry. Co.*, 21 Utah 379, 60 Pac. 1021.

The Railroad excepted to Instructions 9 and 20 and each part thereof. (R. 12, 13) On appeal to the Supreme Court of Utah the Railroad in paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 of its Statement of Errors Relied On contended that prejudicial error was committed in giving Instructions 9 and 20. (R. 133, 134) The Supreme Court of Utah avoided the error thus disclosed by holding that under the evidence as matter of law Bruner was not guilty of contributory negligence. (R. 106, 107) In paragraph 1 of the Petition for Rehearing the Railroad contended that the Supreme Court of Utah erred in so holding. (R. 135)

APPENDIX C

The decision by the Supreme Court of Utah that the Railroad was guilty of negligence as matter of law disposed of exceptions taken in the trial court and errors relied on in the Supreme Court as follows:

In Instruction No. 6 (R. 10) the court told the jury that Bruner had the right to presume *and act upon the presumption* that Colosimo (Bruner's boss) would obey and not violate any

of the rules and regulations of the Railroad Company pertaining to the movement of its trains and engines and the safety of its employees in force at the time. The two rules pleaded and before the court were Rule 2057 as follows:

Engine bell or whistle warning must be given before engines are moved, then wait at least one minute. (R. 5)

and Rule 30 as follows:

The bell must be rung when an engine is about to move and while approaching and passing stations, tunnels, snow sheds and public crossing at grade. (R. 4)

The Railroad excepted to such portion of Instruction No. 6 (R. 11). Instruction No. 6 was erroneous for two reasons: *first*, the two rules were not applicable to yard movements; *second*, it told the jury that a disregard of those rules constituted negligence *per se* whereas the existence of the rules should at most only have been submitted to the jury as one circumstance for its consideration.

On appeal to the Supreme Court of Utah the Railroad, in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of its Statements of Errors Relied On (R. 133), contended that prejudicial error was committed in the giving of that instruction.

The Supreme Court of Utah avoided the error thus disclosed by holding that the evidence of negligence on the part of the Railroad was such that the Court could have directed a verdict in favor of Bruner and it was not prejudicial error for the Court to give the instruction on these rules even though the rules were inapplicable. (R. 110)

In paragraph II of the Petition for Rehearing (R. 135) the Railroad contended that the Supreme Court of Utah erred in so holding.

APPENDIX D

Instruction No. 6 (R. 10) erroneously assumes as matter of law that Bruner at the time of accident was within the protection of the rules as to signals before moving engines.

That assumption disregards the evidence that Bruner could have reached the top of the tender of 1182 by using facilities designed for the purpose, entirely suitable and safe, but chose one that was entirely unsuitable, unsafe and not designed for the purpose of being climbed over. Safety rules promulgated by the master are applicable only to those within the class of persons for whose protection the rule was adopted.

Thus in *Hartung v. Union Pacific R. Co.*, 35 Wyo. 188, 247 Pac. 1071, a suit for death under the Federal Employers' Liability Act, decedent was sent to back flag and was struck and killed by the train which he was supposed to stop. Plaintiff claimed defendant was negligent in that the rear lights of his train were green instead of red as required by the rule. It was held that decedent was not within the class of persons for whose protection the rule was adopted.

In *Sears v. Texas & N. O. Ry. Co.*, 247 S. W. 602, a brakeman sent to back flag went to sleep by or on the track and was killed by the train which he should have stopped. Plaintiff claimed the protection of a rule requiring that train to stop when a red lantern is placed on or near the track. On page 608 the court said:

* * * However, if it be conceded that the red lantern was placed by Sears in the proper place to give warning of danger to the engineer, it must be further conceded that it was so placed to warn those in charge of an approaching train of danger to said train and its passengers and of the danger to trains ahead. It certainly was not intended to be, nor was it in fact, even

a remote warning that the brakeman who set the warning was or could probably be asleep on the track or so near thereto as to be struck by the engine; no such danger could have been reasonably anticipated by the engineer had he seen the warning signal. As already stated, an injury is not actionable if it could not have been foreseen or reasonably anticipated.

In the same case, before the Commission of Appeals, 266 S.W. 400, that court on page 407 said:

Like the omission of any other precaution required at common law, or even by statute (as in the case of crossing signals, Norfolk, etc. Co. v. Gesswine, 144 F. 59, 75 C. C. A. 214) the disobedience of a rule is only negligence towards those who have a right for the protection of which a duty arises. And, as has been seen, the deceased in this case was not in the latter position. In addition, a failure of compliance with the rule was not as to him the proximate cause of his death, because a person in his situation could not have been "reasonably anticipated."

Accord: *Ellis' Adm'r v. Louisville, H. & St. L. Ry. Co.*, 155 Ky. 745, 160 S. W. 512.

The Supreme Court of Utah has recognized the same principle in *Humphreys v. Davis*, 61 Utah 592, 217 Pac. 693. There a cinder pit employe took a position on skeleton tracks over the pit. On page 694 the court said:

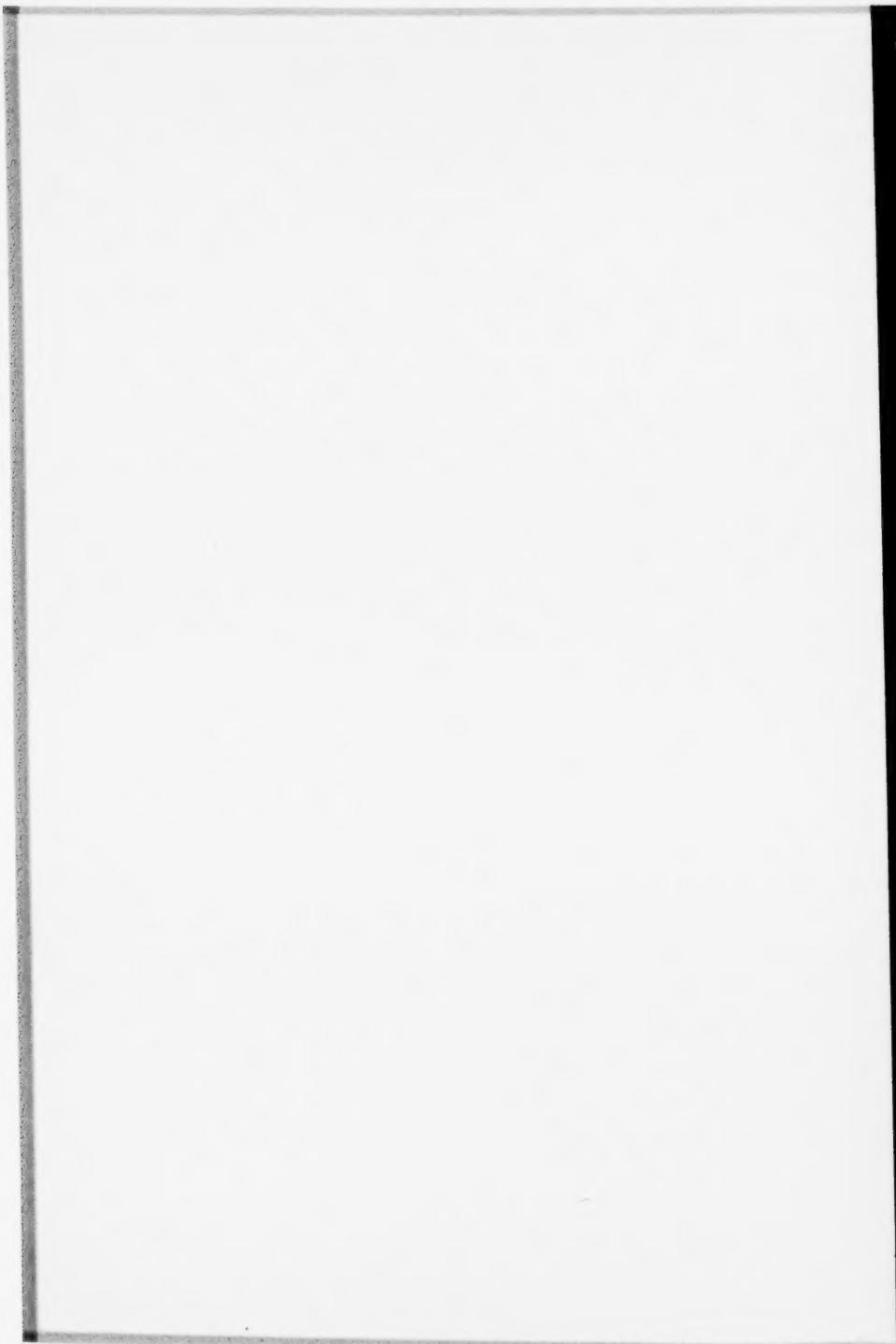
The track in question was not designed to stand or walk upon. No person could reasonably be expected to be upon it.

So in this case. The rear end of the tender of 1182 is not designed for passage of employees from one side to the other. Exhibit 3 (R. 62A, introduced in evidence at R. 62) demonstrates this. The difference in height between the steps and

the top of the draw bar and coupler makes passage awkward and difficult. The handhold is too low with reference to the top of the draw bar for such undesigned use. If Bruner had laid down on the track and been run over by the movement of engines he would as matter of law not have been within the class of persons for whose protection the rules in regard to signals were adopted. But his conduct, it is submitted, was outrageously negligent. He had many designed, suitable and safe ways of reaching the required point. He ignored them and chose a highly dangerous, unsuitable and undesigned way. It is as if an employe whose duty required him to go to the floor below disregarded the staircase and tried to slide down the elevator shaft or a drain pipe.

But we need not go so far as to contend that Bruner's actions placed him outside the protection of the rules as matter of law. We need only point out that it was at least a question for the jury as to whether Bruner's conduct was such as to bring him within or leave him without the protection of the rules.





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SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

F I L E D

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CHAMBERS ELMORE ORG
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OCTOBER TERM, 1944

No. 41

WILSON McCARTHY AND HENRY SWAN, TRUSTEES
OF THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD
COMPANY, A CORPORATION, AND THE DENVER AND
RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,
A CORPORATION,

Petitioners,

vs.

E. E. BRUNER,

Respondent.

BRIEF OF RESPONDENT

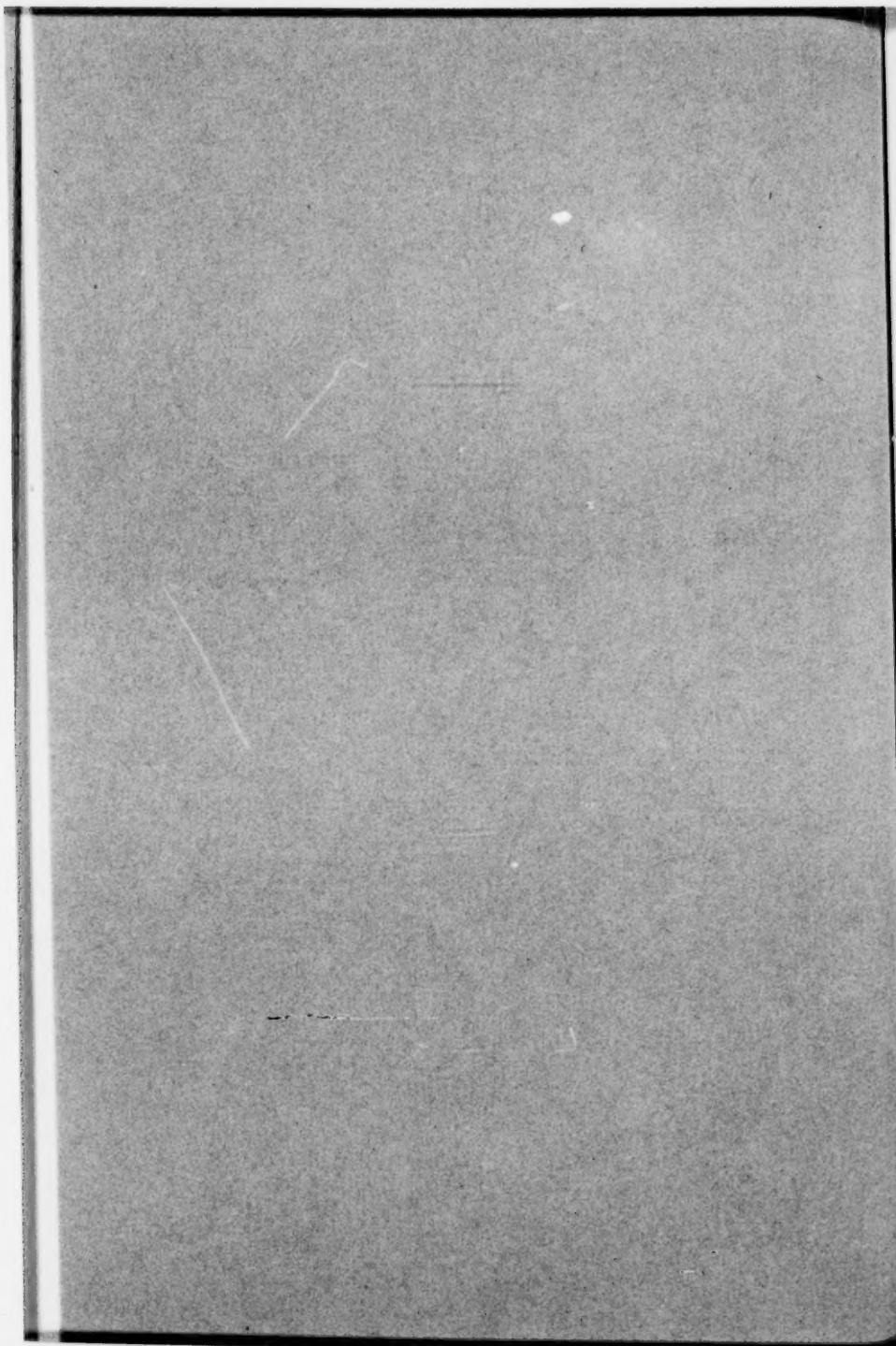
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INDEX
SUBJECT INDEX

	Page
Opinion Below	1
Jurisdiction	1
Statutes Involved	2
Federal Employers' Liability Act, (35 U. S. Statutes 65; U. S. C. A. Title 45, Sections 51, 53)	2
Statement of the Case	2
Cases cited:	
Hadra vs. Utah Nat'l Bank, 9 Utah 412, 35 P. 508	11
Morgan vs. Child, Cole & Co., 61 Utah 448, 213 P. 117	11
Owens vs. Union Pacific R. Co., 319 U. S. 715, 87 L. Ed. 1683, 63 S. Ct. 1271	3
Tennant vs. Peoria & P. U. Ry. Co., 321 U. S. 29, 88 L. Ed. 322, 64 S. Ct. 409	3
Statutes cited:	
Section 104-24-18, Utah Code Annotated, 1943	11
Rule 51 of the Rules of Civil Procedure, 28 U. S. C. A. following Section 723-C	11
SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT	13
ARGUMENT	14
POINT I.	
THIS COURT ON THE REVIEW HERE IS NOT LIMITED TO A DETERMINATION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH ASSIGNED CORRECT REASONS FOR ITS HOLDING BUT MAY LOOK TO THE ENTIRE RECORD TO DETERMINE THE VALIDITY OF THE JUDGMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT	14
Cases cited:	
Chicago R. I. and P. R. Co. vs. Wright, 239 U. S. 548, 60 L. Ed. 431, 36 S. Ct. 185	16
Helvering vs. Gowran, 302 U. S. 238, 82 L. Ed. 224, 58 S. Ct. 154	17

INDEX—Continued

	Page
Indiana Farmers' Guide Publishing Co. vs. Prairie Farmers' Publishing Co., 293 U. S. 268, 79 L. Ed. 356, 55 S. Ct. 182	18
Owens vs. Union Pacific R. Co., 319 U. S. 715, 87 L. Ed. 683, 63 Sup. Ct. 1271	14
Security and Exchange Commission vs. Chenery Corp., 318 U. S. 80, 87 L. E. 626, 63 Sd. Ct. 454	17
Yazoo and M. Valley R. Co. vs. Mullins, 249 U. S. 531, 63 L. Ed. 754, 39 Sup. Ct. 368	14
 POINT II.	
PETITIONERS RECEIVED A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL TRIAL BY JURY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT AND NO PREJUDICIAL ERROR RESULTED FROM INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN	18
A. <i>Instruction No. 6 was in all respects a correct statement of the law as applied to the facts in this case ...</i>	19
B. <i>Instructions Nos. 9 and 20 were correct statements of the law as applied to the facts of this case and were not inconsistent with other instructions</i>	27
 Cases cited:	
Atlantic Coast Line R. Co. vs. McIntosh, 114 Fla. 356, 198 So. 92 (1940)	24
Barlow vs. Salt Lake & U. R. Co., 57 Utah 312, 194 Pac. 665	30
Beck vs. Sirota, 42 Cal. App. (2d) 551, 109 Pac. (2d) 419 (1941)	25
Boyd vs. San Pedro, L. A. & S. L. R. Co., 45 Utah 449, 146 P. 282	30
Bucher vs. Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, 91 Utah 179, 63 Pac. (2d) 604	30
Chesapeake and Ohio Ry. Co. vs. DeAtley, 241 U. S. 310, 60 L. Ed. 1016, 36 S. Ct. 564	25
Chesapeake and Ohio Ry. Co. vs. Proffitt, 241 U. S. 462, 60 L. Ed. 1102, 36 S. Ct. 620	25
Chicago R. I. and P. Ry. Co. vs. Ward, 252 U. S. 18, 64 L. Ed. 430, 40 S. Ct. 275	25
Decatur Bank vs. St. Louis Bank, 88 U. S. 294, 21 Wall 294, 22 L. Ed. 560	30

INDEX—Continued

	Page
Deery vs. Cray, 72 U. S. 795, 5 Wall 795, 18 L. Ed. 653	30
Easter vs. Virginian R. Co., 76 W. Va. 383, 86 S. E. 37	24
Gildner vs. Baltimore and O. R. Co., 90 Fed. (2d) 635 (2nd Circuit)	24
Grimes vs. Richfield Oil Company, 106 Cal. App. 416, 289 Pac. 245 (1930)	25
Grosvenor vs. New York Central R. Co., 343 Mo. 611, 123 S. W. (2d) 173	24
Grosee vs. Terminal R. Assn. of St. Louis, 307 Ill. App. 414, 29 N. E. (2d) 1018	24
Hechler vs. McDonnell, 42 Cal. App. (2d) 515, 109 Pac. (2d) 426	25
Johnston vs. Jones, 66 U. S. 209, 17 L. Ed. 117	30
Kamer vs. Missouri-Kansas-Texas R. Co., 326 Mo. 792, 32 S. W. (2d) 1075	30
Konold vs. Rio Grande Western Ry. Co., 21 Utah 379, 60 Pac. 1021	28
Kurn vs. Stanfield, 111 Fed. (2d) 469 (8th Circuit 1940)	24
Lehi V. R. Co. vs. Doktor, 290 Fed. 760 (3rd Circuit)	22
MacDonnell vs. Southern Pacific Co., 17 Cal. App. (2d) 432, 62 Pac. (2d) 201	24
McGhee vs. Willis, 134 Ala. 281, 32 So. 301	24
McClellan vs. Penn. R. Co., 62 Fed. (2d) 61 (2nd Circuit)	24
Missouri K. and T. Ry. Co. vs. Barber (Tex.), 163 S. W. 116	25
O'Donnell vs. B. & O. R. Co, 324 Mo. 1097, 26 S. W. (2d) 929	24
Ogden Commission Co. vs. Campbell, 66 Utah 563, 244 P. 1029	30
Pacheco vs. New York N. H. and H. R. Co., 15 Fed. (2d) 467 (2nd Circuit)	24
Pierce vs. Spokane International Ry. Co., 131 Pac. (2d) 139, 15 Wash. (2d) 142	24
Roenfranz vs. Chicago R. I. and P. Ry. Co., 140 Iowa 33, 116 N. W. 714	24
Sanders vs. City of Long Beach, 54 Cal. App. (2d) 651, 129 P. (2d) 511	25
Sorenson, et al., vs. Bell, 51 Utah 262, 170 Pac. 72	28
State vs. Trimble, 263 S. W. 840, 304 Mo. 533	28
State vs. Waid, 92 Utah 297, 67 Pac. (2d) 647	28

INDEX—Continued

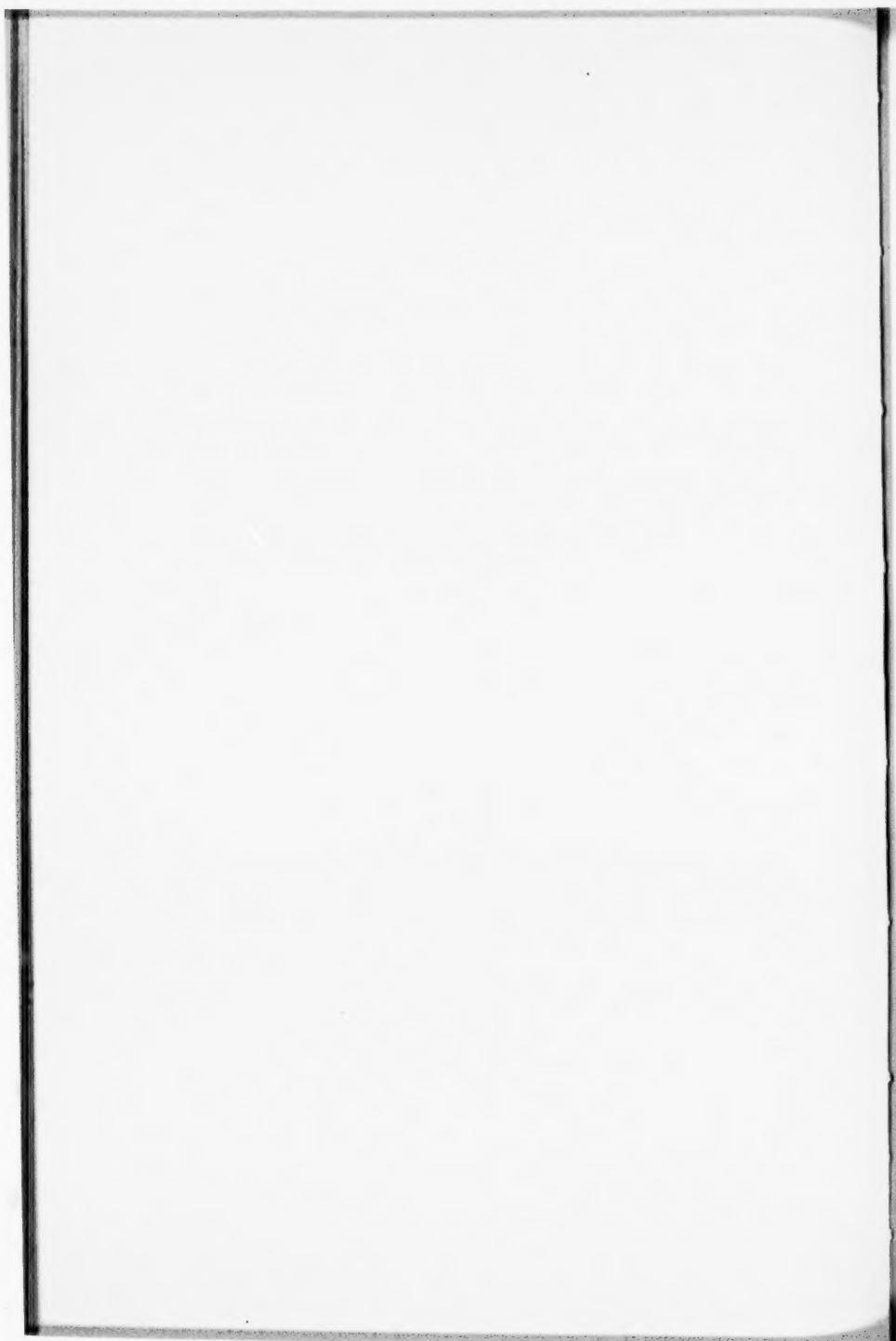
	Page
St. Louis & S. F. Ry. Co. vs. Jeffries, 276 F. 73 (C.C.A. 8, 1921)	24
Tennant vs. Peoria & P. U. Ry. Co., 321 U. S. 29, 88 L. Ed. 322, 64 S. Ct. 409	24
Wyatt vs. New York O. & W. R. Co., 45 Fed. (2d) 705 (2nd Circuit)	24
 Statutes cited:	
Section 104-14-7, Utah Code Annotated, 1943	30
Section 104-39-3, Utah Code Annotated, 1943	30
 POINT III.	
THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH CORRECTLY HELD AS MATTER OF LAW THAT RESPONDENT WAS NOT GUILTY OF CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE	31
 1. <i>Respondent did not choose an unnecessarily hazardous method of proceeding from the cab of Engine 1182 to the tender</i>	
	32
2. <i>Respondent's choice of ways was not in violation of his duty to be in position to give signals to Colosimo</i>	
	40
3. <i>There is no evidence that Respondent disregarded the instructions of Colosimo in getting off Engine 1182</i>	
	41
4. <i>Respondent failed to inform Colosimo that he was going to cross over the draw bars between engines 1182 and 1149</i>	
	42
 Cases cited:	
Fritz vs. Salt Lake and Ogden Gas and Electric Light Company, 18 Utah 493, 56 Pac. 90	39
Mathews vs. Daly West Mining Company, 27 Utah 193, 75 Pac. 722	37, 38
 POINT IV.	
THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH CORRECTLY HELD THAT PETITIONERS WERE NEGLIGENT AS MAT- TER OF LAW	42

INDEX—Continued

Page

Cases cited:

Baltimore & P. R. Co. vs. Mackey, 157 U. S. 72, 39 L. Ed. 624, 15 S. Ct. 491	43
Brady vs. Southern R. Co., 320 U. S. 476, 88 L. Ed. 189, 64 S. Ct. 232	43
Choctaw O. & G. R. Co. vs. Holloway, 191 U. S. 334, 48 L. Ed. 207, 24 S. Ct. 102	43
Chesapeake and Ohio Ry. Co. vs. Proffitt, 241 U. S. 462, 60 L. Ed. 1102, 36 S. Ct. 620	47
Tennant vs. Peoria & P. U. Ry. Co., 321 U. S. 29, 88 L. Ed. 322, 64 S. Ct. 409	47
Union Pacific Ry. Co. vs. McDonald, 152 U. S. 262, 38 L. Ed. 434, 14 S. Ct. 619	43
Virginian Ry. Co. vs. Stanton, 84 Fed. (2d) 133	48
CONCLUSION	48



SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1944

No. 41

WILSON McCARTHY AND HENRY SWAN, TRUSTEES
OF THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD
COMPANY, A CORPORATION, AND THE DENVER AND
RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,
A CORPORATION,

Petitioners,

vs.

E. E. BRUNER,

Respondent.

BRIEF OF RESPONDENT

Opinion Below

The opinion of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah
is not yet officially reported. It is unofficially reported in
142 Pac. (2d) 649. (Also at R. 103-117).

Jurisdiction

The judgment of the Supreme Court of the State of Utah
was rendered October 25, 1943. (R. 117) Petition for re-

hearing was denied on December 27, 1943. (R. 117) Petition for writ of certiorari was filed on March 18, 1944, and was granted on May 1, 1944, 64 Sup. Ct. 1047. Jurisdiction, if present, must come from Section 237 of the Judicial Code as amended.

Statutes Involved

Federal Employers' Liability Act, (35 United States Statutes 65; U.S.C.A. Title 45, Sections 51, 53).

Statement of the Case

Respondent, a hostler's helper, in the employ of Petitioner railway company, while both were engaged in interstate commerce, in attempting to gain a position on top of the tender of one of Petitioners' engines at night (R. 33, 81) in the performance of his duties, was caused to be thrown from the rear of said tender onto the rails in front of its rolling wheels by a sudden and unexpected jerk and movement of two of Petitioners' engines (R. 42, 66, 68) and to thereby suffer the loss of his left leg below the knee. Respondent brought action against Petitioners under the Federal Employers' Liability Act to recover damages for the injuries thus sustained by him in the District Court of the Third Judicial District, in and for Salt Lake County, Utah, and following a trial to a jury, obtained a verdict and judgment in the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars. Appellant's motion for a new trial was denied by the trial judge and upon appeal to the Supreme Court of the State of Utah, the judgment was affirmed. Petitioners, Defendants below, were charged with negligently and carelessly starting said locomotives without receiving a proper signal and without giving warning by ringing the bell or blowing the whistle, thus causing the injuries complained of. (R. 1 to 6) The Complaint set forth two rules governing the operation of

engines by Petitioners and their employees. (R. 4, 5) The Petitioners admitted in their answer the existence of these rules and that they were in force at the time of the accident. (R. 8) One of said rules, Section 30 of the rules and regulations of the operating department states:

"The bell must be rung when an engine is about to move and while approaching and passing stations, tunnels, snow sheds and public crossings at grade."

The other, Section 2057 of the "Safety Rules", states:

"An engine bell or whistle warning must be given before engines are moved. Then wait at least one minute."

Respondent testified with respect to his knowledge and the existence of these rules at the time of the accident. (R. 25, 26) Colosimo, the only one of Petitioners' witnesses whose testimony is preserved in the record, likewise testified that he was familiar with them. (R. 101) There was no evidence offered or received to the effect that these rules did not apply to the movement of the engines at the time and place of the accident resulting in Respondent's injury, nor was there any contention that Respondent and the hostler did not consider the rules to be binding on them while they were engaged in the performance of their duties at and prior to the time of the accident. In fact the uncontradicted evidence with respect to the custom and practice followed by hostlers and their helpers in the movement of engines in Petitioners' yards at Grand Junction established as a fact that these rules existed and were uniformly followed. (R. 23, 24 and 25)

In this respect the case at bar differs from *Owens vs. Union Pacific R. Co.*, 319 U. S. 715, 87 L. Ed. 1683, 63 S. Ct. 1271, and *Tenant vs. Peoria & P. U. Ry. Co.*, 321 U. S. 29, 88 L. Ed. 322, 64 S. Ct. 409.

At the time Respondent was injured he was employed as a hostler's helper, aiding and assisting hostler Colosimo. (R. 27) It was the duty of the hostler and his helper to prepare engines for service and to deliver engines from roundhouse to road crews. The hostler is the boss. He runs the engine and sees that the fire and water supply are in proper condition. The helper coals, sands and waters engines, runs the turn table, throws switches and gives signals. (R. 91) The hostler depends on the helper for signals which control the movement of the engines, and in such movements both work together and depend upon each other. (R. 97)

On November 30, 1941, at 11 o'clock P. M., Colosimo and Respondent went to work. (R. 26) Both were experienced hostlers and hostler's helpers and had worked at both positions. (R. 22, 78, 97) It was dark and Respondent had supplied himself with an electric lantern with which to give signals during the hours of darkness. (R. 26) Prior to the accident, Respondent and Colosimo had removed engine No. 1149 from the roundhouse to the cinder pit. (R. 27) The track upon which the accident occurred runs generally east to west. (R. 29) The roundhouse is east of the cinder pits. West of the cinder pits along the same track and to the south is a sand house or sand tower, and further west along the track but to the south is the coal chute. (R. 29, 30)

While engine 1149 was at the cinder pits, engine 1182 was brought from the roundhouse and coupled onto it. Both engines were facing east, with the tender of No. 1182 coupled to the front of 1149. (R. 31) While the fire was being cleaned and built up in engine 1182, Respondent and Colosimo discussed the movements and the service to be given to said engines. (R. 31) Colosimo told Respondent that both engines would be moved by the power of 1149, that 1182 would be stopped at the sand house for sand and

that coal would be taken on both engines, that Bruner was to take care of the sanding and coaling of 1182 and that he, Colosimo, would coal 1149. (R. 31, 45, 50, 51, 70)

Petitioners state in various portions of their brief that Colosimo told Respondent to stay on engine No. 1182, meaning that he was not to dismount from the engine at all. (Brief 4, 8, 12, 22) This is an incorrect statement of the evidence. Respondent stated categorically that he was not instructed to stay on No. 1182 but that his instructions were to sand and coal No. 1182 and Colosimo would coal 1149. (R. 34, 70, 71) All of Colosimo's testimony with respect to this conversation is as follows:

"Q. * * * Now, will you state what was said between you and Mr. Bruner at that time?

A. I told him that the back engine, 1149, was already sanded, and the 1182 needed to be sanded, and I told him to sand the 1182 and coal 1182 and I would coal 1149 as we went by the coal chute.

Q. Was that all you said to him at that time?

A. Yes, I believe so, I told him for him to sand 1182 and stay on her and coal her, and at the same time I would take care of the 1149." (R. 81)

"Q. (By Mr. Jensen) Mr. Colosimo, at the time you talked with Mr. Bruner, back at the cinder pit, about what you were going to do, did you say anything to Mr. Bruner as to where he should be and stay?

A. I just told him to stay on the 1182. That is what I told him, just to stay on the 1182, and I would take care of the 1149.

Recross Examination.

Q. (By Mr. Black) All you meant by that was that you would take care of 1149, and Bruner would take care of 1182?

A. Yes. sir." (R. 102)

Subsequent to the conversation above related and as soon as the fire had been cleaned, Respondent took a position on the right running board of 1182 and gave Colosimo, who was then in the cab of 1149, a back-up signal with lighted lantern. (R. 32) Colosimo sounded the whistle on 1149 to indicate that he had received the signal (R. 63, 82) and then started the engines backward. When the 1182 reached a point where its sand dome was underneath the sand spout, Respondent gave a stop signal with his lantern, and Colosimo in obedience to the signal stopped the engine. (R. 32) After sand had been taken on 1182, Respondent again gave a back-up signal with his lighted lantern, and Colosimo in response thereto backed the engines westward and stopped them when the 1149 reached a point where its tender was beneath the easterly apron of the coal chute. (R. 33) During this movement Colosimo was looking toward the west and not in the direction of Respondent. This was in accordance with the previous understanding between Respondent and Colosimo. Colosimo was solely responsible for this stop. (R. 34, 63) It is apparent that when this stop was made, the tender of 1182 was an engine length from the first apron at the coal chute. Colosimo proceeded to coal engine No. 1149, this operation taking three or four minutes. (R. 83) At about the time the engines stopped, Respondent entered the cab of engine 1182, checked the fire and water, and after letting the blower run a little bit to finish catching up the fire, turned it off, (R. 33, 60, 65) and this according to his right and duty. (R. 53, 91) It was Respondent's duty to be on the tender of No. 1182 when Colosimo was ready to move, so that he could give a back-up signal, and thereafter a stop signal when the tender of 1182 reached a point beneath the apron at the coal chute. (R. 34, 38, 44, 45) It was his duty to be there and Colosimo expected him to be there. (R. 100) In order to get to the top of the tender of No. 1182, Respondent

climbed out of the cab on the north side (the side away from the coal chute) and walked to the rear of the tender along the north side of the engine.

Respondent's Exhibit "A" (R. 34-A) and "F" (R. 74-A) are rear views of the tender of engine No. 1182. Appellants' Exhibit 3 (R. 62-A) is a picture of the tender of No. 1182 coupled to 1149. The rear end of the tender has attached to it a coupler and two-foot boards, one on either side. The familiar cutting levers extend from both sides of the tender to the couplers being attached to a wooden beam which protrudes approximately six or eight inches from the rear of the steel portion of the tender. Attached to this beam and running along the top of it is a hand-hold. Attached to the under portion of the beam at either end is a stirrup. Just above each foot-board there is a steel step attached to the beam to be used by employees in climbing onto the tender. (R. 75, 76) Attached to the steel portion of the tender and running from a point above the hand-hold to the top, approximately two feet in from the side of the tender, is a steel ladder. (See Exhibits "A", "F".) Respondent intended to climb up this ladder to the top of the tender. In order to do so and in accordance with the usual custom and practice, he climbed onto the wooden beam at the rear of the tender and was in the act of crossing over the coupler to the ladder, when Colosimo suddenly and without signal from the Respondent, and without warning by bell or whistle, and not knowing where or in what position Respondent was at that time started the engines. (R. 42, 82, 83, 89, 100, 101)

The resulting jerk threw Respondent onto the tracks and his left leg was run over at a point below the knee. (R. 41, 42, 43, 65, 69)

In Petitioners' Statement of Facts (Brief, p. 9) it is asserted that Respondent had several safe ways to get to

the top of the tender of 1182 to spot and coal it, without clambering over the draw bars or even dismounting from the engine; and that he did not avail himself of a safe course. It is argued that because of these facts Respondent was guilty of contributory negligence. All of the evidence in the record is to the effect that Respondent could climb to the top of the tender in any way that he saw fit, and that the way chosen by him was the usual, customary and proper way. With respect to the customary and usual manner of climbing to the top of the tender, Respondent testified as follows:

"Q. You may state whether or not, in the course of your employment as a hostler, or a hostler's helper and fireman, you have occasion to cross from one side to the other of an engine coupled to a tender, and to pass over the drawbar?

A. Yes, many times I have had occasion to. I did so many times. It is a common practice to get off and go up that way.

Q. (By Mr. Black) Mr. Bruner, during the time that you were employed by the defendant corporation, did anyone ever give you any instructions concerning leaving or getting down from engines?

A. No, sir." (R. 75, 76)

The only other testimony, (and the only witness to the facts produced by Petitioners) was that given by Colosimo. He testified that hostler's helpers had numerous ways of gaining positions on top of the tender, that some did it one way and some another. He testified that he never gave Respondent any instructions as to how he should get in and out of the engine or of the course he should pursue in gaining a position on top of the tender. He testified (R. 99):

"Q. The fact of the matter is, that was just up to him?

A. Yes, sir."

He further testified (R. 100):

"Q. It is more or less up to the helper what he does?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You do not pretend to tell the helpers how they should do this part of their work?

A. No, sir.

Q. Nobody ever pretended to tell you how to do it when you were a helper?

A. No, sir."

There is no evidence in the record that the method adopted by Respondent to get to the top of the tender was dangerous or unusual or not customary. There was no evidence that petitioner had ever discouraged or forbidden the practice of crossing over draw bars by rule, regulation, custom or otherwise.

Petitioners conclude (Brief 4) from the fact that it was Respondent's duty to be in a position to give signals to Colosimo that he was required to remain on the right hand or south side of the engine. The signals referred to according to the evidence, were to be given by Respondent from a position on top and rear of the tender of 1182. (R. 44) There is an entire absence of evidence in the record to support the proposition that Bruner was required by circumstances, instruction, practice or rule to be or to remain on the south side of engine 1182.

Petitioner state (p. 4 of their brief) that there is no evidence, suggestion or contention in the record that

Colosimo knew that Respondent was between the engines or intended to go between them. That is true. The evidence is simply to the effect that Colosimo placed the engines in motion, well knowing that he did not know where Respondent was and well knowing that he had received no signal from him and well knowing that he had given no warning of his intended movement by bell, whistle or otherwise. The movement was made in the nighttime, and Colosimo, as he admitted, could see the top of the tender of 1182 from the cab of 1149 (R. 101), he therefore knew at the time the engines were moved that Respondent was not on the tender of 1182, otherwise he could have seen his light.

There was no conflict in the evidence on the question of Petitioners' negligence nor was there any evidence of Respondent's contributory negligence. However, at the conclusion of the introduction of evidence, the trial court submitted both these issues to the jury on proper instructions. In Instruction No. 3 (R. 123) the term "negligence" was fully and accurately defined. By Instruction No. 4 (R. 124) the jury was admonished that it was necessary for plaintiff to prove by preponderance of all the evidence that defendant was guilty of negligence, and that such negligence was the proximate cause of the injuries complained of. By Instruction No. 14-A (R. 127) the provisions of Section 53, Title 45, U. S. C. A., with respect to the diminution of damages by reason of contributory negligence was set forth and the jury was told that while contributory negligence would not defeat recovery, the damages might be diminished by the jury in proportion to the amount of negligence attributable to the injured employee. By Instruction No. 15 (R. 117) given in response to Petitioners' request No. 6 (R. 123), the jury was told that contributory negligence would not bar recovery but that the damages might be reduced in the event the jury found for plain-

tiff, in proportion to the amount of his negligence. There is a suggestion in the dissenting opinion of Justice Larsen (R. 116) that the jury was not adequately instructed on the definition of contributory negligence and that defendants' Requested Instruction No. 5 (R. 118) covering this point should have been given. This request, as a matter of fact, was given, and this request was a part of the charge submitted to the jury. The original request was marked "Given, George A. Faust, Judge." The record shows that no exception was taken by Petitioners for the refusal of the trial court to grant this request (R. 118, 129, 133) and no error was assigned in the Supreme Court of Utah for the failure or refusal of the trial court to grant this request. (R. 133, 134, 135)

When the record on appeal reached the Supreme Court of Utah it was discovered that no instruction No. 5 was contained in the transcript of the proceedings. No attempt was made in that Court to correct the record in view of the fact that no exception had been taken and no error assigned for the failure or refusal of the court to grant or give this instruction.⁽¹⁾

(1)Under Utah practice the Supreme Court will not review alleged error in the refusal to grant requested instructions unless proper exception is taken thereto. Section 104-24-18, Utah Code Annotated, 1943, provides:

"All instructions requested or given shall be filed by the clerk and shall become a part of the judgment roll. Exceptions to the charge or any portion thereof, or to the refusal or modification of any instruction requested, shall be taken at the time the charge is given, or before verdict. No reasons need be given for such exceptions, but the exceptions shall be noted upon the minutes of the court, or by the court reporter, if one is in attendance."

It was held in Hadra v. Utah Nat'l Bank, 9 Utah 412, 35 P. 508, that if no exception is taken either to the giving or the refusal to give instructions requested, no error can be assigned thereon.

See also Morgan v. Child, Cole & Co., 61 Utah 448, 213 P. 117, and Rule 51 of the Rules of Civil Procedure, 28 U.S.C.A. following Sec. 723-C.

The matter of contributory negligence was brought forcibly to the attention of the jury in the forms of verdict submitted by the trial court. By one of these forms (second verdict form) (R. 9) the jury was invited to consider and determine the existence, if any, and the comparative amount of negligence attributable to Respondent.

Under the circumstances the verdict returned by the jury amounted to a finding that Respondent was free from negligence on his part.

It is asserted in Petitioners' Statement of Facts, page 5 of their Brief, that the trial court improperly failed to instruct the jury to make proportionate deductions in damages if they found that Respondent was guilty of contributory negligence. In view of the fact that the Court gave the instruction on this subject as requested by Petitioners, namely instruction No. 15 (R. 117) it is difficult for us to understand or appreciate the virtue of this assertion.

Petitioners state with respect to the decision of the Supreme Court of Utah (Brief p. 7): "It held that the railroad was not entitled to a fair jury trial of those issues because it was not entitled to any jury trial of those issues." This statement is extravagant and misleading. There is nothing in the decision of the Supreme Court of Utah to justify such a statement. The Supreme Court of Utah had before it the record of a trial by jury, where the issues of negligence and contributory negligence had been submitted upon proper instructions and a determination made thereon. The Court held that Petitioners had had a fair jury trial and that the evidence without conflict demonstrated the existence of negligence on the part of Petitioners and that there was no evidence of negligence on the part of Respondent.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

1. THIS COURT ON REVIEW HERE IS NOT LIMITED TO A DETERMINATION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH ASSIGNED CORRECT REASONS FOR ITS HOLDING BUT MAY LOOK TO THE ENTIRE RECORD TO DETERMINE THE VALIDITY OF THE JUDGMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT.

Under Point 1, Respondent contends that Petitioners' conception of the scope of the review in this Court is unduly limited. They seek to confine the review to a consideration of the reasons assigned by the Supreme Court of Utah as the basis for its judgment. It is well settled that a correct judgment will not be reversed because the lower Court's reasoning may have been erroneous in some particulars. Respondent contends that the complete record made at the trial court, being now before the Court, should be examined to determine whether or not Petitioners received a fair jury trial and if it should be so determined the judgment should be affirmed even though it may appear that the Supreme Court of Utah assigned erroneous reasons as the basis for its judgment.

2. PETITIONERS RECEIVED A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL TRIAL BY JURY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT AND NO PREJUDICIAL ERROR RESULTED FROM INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN.

Under this point Respondent contends that Petitioners received a fair and impartial trial by jury on the issues raised by the pleadings. That the issues of negligence and contributory negligence were submitted to the jury on proper instructions. That the evidence which was not in conflict was in all respects sufficient to support the verdict.

That instruction No. 6 wherein the Court instructed the jury that Respondent had a right in attempting to mount the tender of engine No. 1182, to assume and to act upon the assumption that the hostler, Colosimo, would not place the engines in motion without proper signal from him nor without giving warning of his intention to move the engines by bell or whistle and that Respondent was justified in relying upon the hostler's obedience to Petitioners' safety rules, was under the pleadings and evidence entirely proper. That instructions No. 9 and 20 which covered the question of damage were not erroneous for the reason that they did not contain an admonition with respect to diminution of damages in the event the jury should determine that Respondent was himself contributorily negligent, in view of the evidence and other instructions covering this point.

3. THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH CORRECTLY HELD AS MATTER OF LAW THAT RESPONDENT WAS NOT GUILTY OF CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE.

Under this point Respondent contends that there is no evidence in the record which proves or tends to prove that he was guilty of negligence, which proximately contributed to the cause of his injuries and that the Supreme Court of Utah correctly held as matter of law that he was not guilty of contributory negligence.

4. THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH CORRECTLY HELD THAT PETITIONERS WERE NEGLIGENT AS MATTER OF LAW.

Under this point Respondent contends that Petitioners' negligence was the sole, proximate cause of his injuries and that the Supreme Court of Utah correctly held that Petitioners were negligent as matter of law.

ARGUMENT**Point I.**

THIS COURT ON THE REVIEW HERE IS NOT LIMITED TO A DETERMINATION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH ASSIGNED CORRECT REASONS FOR ITS HOLDING BUT MAY LOOK TO THE ENTIRE RECORD TO DETERMINE THE VALIDITY OF THE JUDGMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT.

Petitioners seek to limit the review in this case to a consideration of the question of whether or not the Supreme Court of Utah stated correct reasons for the affirmance of the judgment in favor of Respondent. While Respondent contends that the reasons given by the Supreme Court of Utah were correct, he also takes the position that the entire record should be considered and that the record clearly and conclusively establishes the validity of the judgment of the trial Court.

The Petitioners rely upon the case of *Owens vs. Union Pacific R. Co.*, 319 U. S. 715, 87 L. Ed. 683, 63 Sup. Ct. 1271, wherein this Court refrained from considering questions which the Circuit Court of Appeals had not determined. We submit, however, that this Court did not intend to thereby overrule the long line of decisions holding that the giving of a wrong reason for affirmance does not require reversal of a correct judgment. *Yazoo and M. Valley R. Co. vs. Mullins*, 249 U. S. 531, 63 L. Ed. 754, 39 Sup. Ct. 368; *Chicago R. I. and P. R. Co. vs. Wright*, 239 U. S. 548, 60 L. Ed. 431, 36 S. Ct. 185; *Helvering vs. Gowran*, 302 U. S. 238, 82 L. Ed. 224, 58 S. Ct. 154.

In *Yazoo and M. Valley R. Co. vs. Mullins*, *supra*, a case tried in a Mississippi State Court under the Federal Employers' Liability Act, the Defendant railroad requested a directed verdict on the ground that there was no evidence of negligence on its part. The request was refused and

verdict was for Plaintiff. Upon appeal, the State Supreme Court refused to consider the question of the sufficiency of the evidence of negligence and affirmed the judgment on the ground that the so-called "prima facie act" of Mississippi applied and relieved Plaintiff of the burden of establishing negligence. This Court had previously held that the "prima facie act" could not be applied under the Federal Employers' Liability Act. Upon writ of error to the Supreme Court of the United States, Plaintiff contended that even though the State Court erroneously applied the act, nevertheless the railroad had not been prejudiced by this error and that the reliance by the State Supreme Court upon the wrong reason should not prevent affirmance. In considering this contention, this Court stated at page 532 of 249 U. S.:

"It is true generally in cases coming from lower Federal courts that the rendering of an erroneous decision on a particular question, * * * or the assignment by the lower court of an erroneous reason for a right decision, * * * will not entitle the complaining party to reversal, if it is clear that his rights were not prejudiced thereby. And this is likewise true of cases coming from state courts. * * * Whether the case comes from a state court or a Federal court, this court will, for the purpose of determining whether the error found may have been prejudicial, examine the whole record; state questions being left to the decision of the state court in cases coming here from those courts."

The judgment was, however, reversed because of clear error in an instruction.

In *Chicago R. I. and P. R. Co. vs. Wright*, supra, the trial court and, on appeal, the Supreme Court of Nebraska held that the case did not come within the Federal Employers' Liability Act but came within a state act. This court

held that the case came within the Federal Employers' Liability Act, but that the Defendant company had not been prejudiced by the erroneous holding of the state courts and the judgment for Plaintiff was affirmed.

In *Helvering vs. Gowran*, supra, this Court stated:

"In the review of judicial proceedings the rule is settled that if the decision below is correct, it must be affirmed, although the lower court relied upon a wrong ground or gave a wrong reason. *Frey & Son v. Cudahy Packing Co.*, 256 U. S. 208, 65 L. Ed. 892, 41 S. Ct. 451; *United States vs. American R. Exp. Co.*, 265 U. S. 425, 68 L. Ed. 1087, 44 S. Ct. 569; *United States vs. Holt State Bank*, 270 U. S. 49, 56, 70 L. Ed. 465, 469, 46 S. Ct. 197; *Langnes vs. Green*, 282 U. S. 531, 75 L. Ed. 520, 51 S. Ct. 243; *Stelos Co. vs. Hosiery Motor-Mend Corp.*, 295 U. S. 237, 239, 79 L. Ed. 1414, 1416, 55 S. Ct. 746; et. *United States vs. Williams*, 278 U. S. 255, 73 L. Ed. 314."

In *Security and Exchange Commission vs. Chenery Corp.*, 318 U. S. 80, 87 L. Ed. 626, 63 Sup. Ct. 454, this Court in confining its review of the judgment to the validity of the grounds upon which the commission based its action pointed out that it did not thereby intend to disturb the well settled rule announced by the foregoing decisions. This Court stated the reason for the rule as follows:

"The reason for this rule is obvious. It would be wasteful to send a case back to a lower court to reinstate a decision which it had already made but which the appellate court concluded should properly be based on another ground within the power of the appellate court to formulate."

While it does not appear from the opinion in the Owens case, supra, why this Court refrained from going into matters not reached or decided by the Circuit Court of Appeals

it may well have been that Respondent there did not demand or request review of the entire record.

As pointed out by this Court in *Indiana Farmers' Guide Publishing Co. vs. Prairie Farmers' Publishing Co.*, 293 U. S. 268, 79 L. Ed. 356, 55 S. Ct. 182, Respondent must show that although based on untenable grounds the judgment below is correct and should be affirmed, and that this Court in the absence of any such claim will not examine the record to discover grounds upon which to sustain it. Respondent submits that conceding, for the sake of argument only, erroneous reasons were given as the basis for its judgment by the Supreme Court of Utah, nevertheless the judgment is correct in its final analysis and should be affirmed.

Respondent will contend here as he did to the Supreme Court of Utah that the judgment of the trial court is correct and that no error was committed in the instructions and further that if there was any error in the instructions, it was not prejudicial for the reason that the evidence established the negligence of petitioners as a matter of law and that there was no evidence of contributory negligence on the part of Respondent.

Respondent respectfully requests an examination and consideration of the whole record to determine whether or not the judgment in favor of Plaintiff was and is correct and that the review here not be limited to a consideration of the opinion of the Supreme Court of Utah only.

Point II.

PETITIONERS RECEIVED A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL TRIAL BY JURY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT AND NO PRE-JUDICIAL ERROR RESULTED FROM INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN.

The Petitioners contended in the Supreme Court of Utah (R. 133, 134, 135), and likewise here that they did not receive a fair jury trial because of certain claimed errors in Instructions 6, 9 and 20. As heretofore pointed out, the right of Respondent to recover under the evidence was established without conflict and there was an entire absence of proof of negligence on the part of Respondent. These issues, however, were submitted to and determined by the jury, on proper instructions, adversely to the Petitioners, thus leaving for determination the sole question as to whether or not prejudicial error resulted from instructions Nos. 6, 9 and 20. If no prejudicial error was committed in these instructions, then Petitioners' argument that they did not have a fair trial must fall of its own weight.

a. *Instruction No. 6 was in all respects a correct statement of the law as applied to the facts in this case.*

Instruction No. 6 may be found at pages 10 and 11 of the record. By this instruction the jury was told that Respondent had a right in attempting to gain a position on top of the tender of 1182, where his duty required him to be, to assume that Colosimo, his fellow employee, would not place the engines in motion before receiving a signal from Respondent or before giving warning by bell or whistle of the intended movement. The jury was also told that Respondent was not bound to anticipate a violation of Petitioners' safety rules by Colosimo.

Petitioners' complaint respecting this instruction can be summarized as follows: (1) The instruction absolved Respondent from the duty of exercising due care for his own protection. (2) The two rules were not applicable to yard movements. (3) The instruction assumes that Respondent came within the protection of said rules and regulations. (4) The jury was told that a disregard of these rules constituted negligence per se.

Petitioners by answer admitted the existence of the rules and that they were in full force at the time of the accident. Respondent and Colosimo were familiar with these rules and understood them at the time of the accident. The fact that the uniform custom and practice established by Petitioners and their employees of moving engines upon signal and after giving warning of the movement by bell or whistle establishes that these rules had been promulgated for the safety of employees operating engines within yard limits.

Colosimo testified that when a hostler and his helper work together at night, the hostler operates the engine upon signals from the helper, that both work together and depend upon each other. (R. 97) Respondent testified that the helper gives the signals and does the ground work and the hostler operates the engine. He testified that there was a custom and practice followed by the hostlers and hostlers' helpers during all of the time he was employed by Petitioners, that engines were to be moved by the hostler only upon signal from the helper and that after the helper gave the signal, the hostler would answer back by whistle or bell to give warning of the intended movement. (R. 24)

Respondent also testified:

"Q. Do you know whether or not these signals, both from the hostler to the helper and the helper to the hostler, were used in the movements of engines in the yards at Grand Junction during the time you were working there?

A. Yes, they were in effect, I always used them and worked by them.

Q. Prior to the time this accident occurred, do you recall any occasion when the signals were not used?

A. No, I do not. I always worked according to signals, that is what we have to move by, is signals." (R. 25)

Up to the time of the accident these rules had been faithfully observed by Colosimo, as is indicated by his own testimony, as well as that of Respondent.

Petitioners in defending the proposition that Instruction No. 6 absolved Respondent from the duty of exercising due care must necessarily take the position that Respondent as a matter of right could not rely upon Colosimo to obey the rules and follow the custom, but should have governed his conduct on the assumption that Colosimo might do otherwise.

Railroading is necessarily hazardous. The greatest protection employees have comes from the strict observance of rules, customs and practices designed to promote safety. Employees working together in the movements of engines or trains must be protected by standards of care upon which they can rely. Rules and customs are the means by which these standards are created. The adoption of a rule or custom that signals must be given before engines or trains are moved constitutes a standard which employees may anticipate will be followed. Railroad employees in the performance of their duties must rely for their own safety upon fellow employees and must act upon the assumption that the ordinary hazards of railroading will not be increased by violations of standards established for the expeditious and safe movement of trains, engines and railroad equipment. If railroad employees could not act upon the assumption that fellow employees will not violate these standards, it would be impossible to perform and carry on the great public service of railroading.

Colosimo, except for the time when the engines were stopped at the coal chute immediately prior to the accident, was in the cab of engine 1149. His position was safe and he could not be placed in danger by anything which Respondent could have done or failed to do in the performance

of his duty. Respondent, on the other hand, was moving about on engine 1182 and was giving proper signals not only for the purpose of accomplishing the results outlined to him by Colosimo, but also for the purpose of preserving his own well-being. It was necessary for Respondent to depend upon Colosimo for safety. Colosimo depended upon Respondent for signals and assistance, while Respondent depended upon Colosimo for protection against dangers which might result from failure to observe the standards of care set up by the rules, custom and practice. Respondent was safe and free from danger until Colosimo suddenly, unexpectedly and in violation of the rules placed the engines in motion.

The Supreme Court of Utah in discussing this matter stated (R. 107):

"This is a case where the parties were members of a working crew working on signals designed for the very safety of that work. Where the accident has been caused by the failure to give such signal the party working in a crew responsible for such omission will not be heard to say that the injury suffered could have been avoided had the injured party conducted himself on the assumption that the signal would not be given; that the consequences of the delict could have been avoided had the injured party, as appears from hindsight, so conducted or positioned himself as to make the delict inconsequential. There are perhaps few instances of accidents in industry where one party injured by the negligence of another might not, had he been warned of the negligence, have placed himself in more advantageous position to avoid its consequences. One of the criteria in determining the standard of care required in industry to fend off a defense of contributory negligence is not one fashioned by the imagination of judges sitting in their chambers but one measured by the conduct and practices of the average experienced workman engaged in that indus-

try in relation to others working with him in their immediate joint enterprise under the system of signals designed for the safety of such parties engaged in the enterprise. The care which a prudent person will exercise not to injure others and that which he will exercise in order to protect himself from the unanticipated action of others are not necessarily governed by the same circumstances. One for whose benefit such signal is to be given, may while in the conduct of the enterprise, rely on the other to give it; and the latter may not, where the other has acted according to the standard set by the accustomed behavior under such mutual undertakings, urge that greater care would have avoided the consequences of his omission to give the signal."

To instruct that Respondent could assume that the rules, regulations and customs would be followed and obeyed by Colosimo obviously does not take the question of contributory negligence from the jury. The instruction told the jury that, as matter of law, Respondent had a right to rely upon obedience to these standards. In it no reference was made to the conduct of Respondent before, during or after he started to mount the tender of 1182. The instruction merely states that in making the attempt to pass over the couplers and up the ladder to the top of 1182, it was not necessary for Respondent to take precautionary measures to guard himself from danger which could arise only as the result of Colosimo's failure to obey the rules, regulations and customs.

The authorities cited by Petitioners at page 35 of their Brief in support of their contention that Instruction No. 6 absolved Respondent from the duty of exercising due care for his own protection are not in point. None of these cases arose under the Federal Employers' Liability Act, none of them involve railroading or fellow employee relationship,

nor do they relate to any situation even remotely similar to that presented by the record here.

The decisions from state and federal courts in cases arising under the Federal Employers' Liability Act unanimously support the proposition that employees are entitled to rely upon rules and customs which determine the standards of what they must anticipate in the performance of their duties and that they are entitled to act in reliance thereon. *Tennant vs. Peoria & P. U. Ry. Co.*, 321 U. S. 29, 88 L. Ed. 322, 64 S. Ct. 409; *Kurn vs. Stanfield*, 111 Fed. (2d) 469 (8th Circuit 1940); *Gildner vs. Baltimore and O. R. Co.*, 90 Fed. (2d) 635 (2nd Circuit); *McClellan vs. Penn. R. Co.*, 62 Fed. (2d) 61, (2nd Circuit); *Wyatt vs. New York O. & W. R. Co.*, 45 Fed. (2d) 705 (2nd Circuit); *Lehi V. R. Co. vs. Doktor*, 290 Fed. 760 (3rd Circuit); *MacDonnell vs. Southern Pacific Co.*, 17 Cal. App. (2d) 432, 62 Pac. (2d) 201, certiorari denied, 301 U. S. 688, 81 L. Ed. 1345, 75 S. Ct. 790; *O'Donnell vs. B. & O. R. Co.*, 324 Mo. 1097, 26 S. W. (2d) 929; *Grosvenor vs. New York Central R. Co.*, 343 Mo. 611, 123 S. W. (2d) 173; *Pierce vs. Spokane International Ry. Co.*, 131 Pac. (2d) 139, 15 Wash. (2d) 142; *Pacheco vs. New York N. H. and H. R. Co.*, 15 Fed. (2d) 467 (2nd Circuit); *Missouri K. and T. Ry. Co. vs. Barber* (Texas), 163 S. W. 116; *McGhee vs. Willis*, 134 Ala. 281, 32 So. 301; *Roenfranz vs. Chicago R. I. and P. Ry. Co.*, 140 Iowa 33, 116 N. W. 714; *Grosee vs. Terminal R. Assn. of St. Louis*, 307 Ill. App. 414, 29 N. E. (2d) 1018; *Atlantic Coast Line R. Co. v. McIntosh*, 114 Fla. 356, 198 So. 92 (1940); *Easter vs. Virginian R. Co.*, 76 W. Va. 383, 86 S. E. 37.

It has been held by respectable authority that a person is justified in assuming that he will not be exposed to danger which can come only from a breach of duty owed him by another. *St. Louis & S. F. Ry. Co. vs. Jeffries*, 276 F. 73

(C.C.A. 8, 1921); *Beck vs. Sirota*, 42 Cal. App. (2d) 551, 109 Pac. (2d) 419 (1941); *Hechler vs. McDonnell*, 42 Cal. App. (2d) 515, 109 Pac. (2d) 426; *Grimes vs. Richfield Oil Company*, 106 Cal. App. 416, 289 Pac. 245 (1930); *Sanders vs. City of Long Beach*, 54 Cal. App. (2d) 651, 129 P. (2d) 511.

This Court, in cases involving assumption of risk, has recognized the right of employees of railroads to rely upon fellow employees exercising ordinary care and following customary methods in the performance of their work. *Chicago R. I. and P. Ry. Co. vs. Ward*, 252 U. S. 18, 64 L. Ed. 430, 40 S. Ct. 275; *Chesapeake and Ohio Ry. Co. vs. DeAtley*, 241 U. S. 310, 60 L. Ed. 1016, 36 S. Ct. 564; *Chesapeake and Ohio Ry. Co. vs. Proffitt*, 241 U. S. 462, 60 L. Ed. 1102, 36 S. Ct. 620. In *Chicago R. I and P. R. Co. vs. Ward*, supra, the Court stated:

"In the absence of notice to the contrary, and the record shows none, Ward had the right to act upon the belief that the usual method would be followed and the cars cut off at the proper time by the engine foreman, so that he might safely proceed to perform his duty as a switchman by setting the brake to check the cars which should have been detached."

Petitioners maintain that Instruction No. 6 is erroneous for the reason that Rules 30 and 2057 were not applicable to yard movements. The language of the rules without more is proof of the fact that they were enacted for the safety of employees engaged in movements of this type and there is no evidence to the contrary in the record. This contention disregards the uncontradicted evidence that these rules were understood and relied upon by Respondent and Colosimo in the movement of the engines prior to the time

Respondent was injured and that they had become a matter of custom and practice among Petitioners' employees in the yards at Grand Junction. If it be a fact that these rules were not applicable to movements of this type certainly no one was in a better position to prove and establish the fact than the railroad company, and they offered no such proof. As far as the record goes, they leave the rules with the admission in their Answer that they were in full force and effect at the time of the accident. The trial Court in Instruction No. 6 merely advised the jury that Respondent could rely upon rules and regulations pertaining to the movement of engines, and safety of its employees, in force at the time.

Under the pleadings and evidence in this case a finding by the jury that these rules were not applicable to movements of the type being carried on by Respondent and Colosimo at the time of the accident, would be set aside as not supported by pleadings or proof.

Petitioners argue that Respondent was not within the protection of the rule because of the way he chose to get onto the tender of engine 1182.

Respondent's choice of methods in moving from the cab of 1182 to the top of its tender was not a causative factor in the accident; its sole proximate cause was Colosimo's negligence. Certainly there was nothing in the conduct of Respondent which would take from him the protection of these rules and regulations. The rule which required hostlers to hold engines still until receipt of a proper signal from the helper was a rule adopted for the protection of the helper, it affords no protection to the hostler. The rule which required hostlers to give warning by bell or whistle

of intended movements was not adopted for the protection of the hostler, but for the protection and safety of fellow employees and others who might be endangered by the movement. Respondent's safety while on or about the engines, depended on his knowing when the engines were to be moved and he depended upon the signals designed for that purpose to obtain that information. The rules and customs determined and established what those signals and warnings should be.

Petitioners' final criticism of the instruction is that by it the Court told the jury that a disregard of the two rules above referred to by Petitioners would constitute negligence per se. This argument is, to say the least, rather far-fetched. If the instruction were, as a matter of fact, subject to such a criticism, it would not be erroneous here because no prejudicial error could result therefrom. This instruction merely informed the jury that Respondent had a right to rely upon the observance of the rules. It is an instruction which deals solely with the matter of Respondent's right to act on the assumption that his fellow employee would observe the rules and do his duty. It does not state and cannot be construed to state that a mere violation of these rules by Colosimo would entitle Respondent to a verdict.

We respectfully submit that Instruction No. 6 correctly stated the law as applied to this case, that it is well supported by the authorities, and that the trial court did not err in so instructing the jury.

b. *Instructions Nos. 9 and 20 were correct statements of the law as applied to the facts of this case and were not inconsistent with other instructions.*

Petitioners complain of instructions Nos. 9 and 20 (R. 11 and 12) on the ground that the same were given without

any qualification as to deduction on account of Respondent's contributory negligence. Assuming that there was evidence of contributory negligence, the jury was instructed that after they determined the amount of the damage sustained the amount awarded was to be reduced in proportion to the negligence attributable to Respondent. (See instructions 14-A, R. 127; and 15, R. 117, given in response to Defendant's request for Instruction No. 6, R. 123.) These instructions clearly qualify and supplement Instructions No. 9 and No. 20 and when read with the latter instructions embody a correct statement of the law of damages under the Federal Employers' Liability Act.

Petitioners endeavor to circumvent this obvious point by asserting that the instructions given on this subject are contradictory. *Sorenson, et al., vs. Bell*, 51 Utah 262, 170 Pac. 72; *State vs. Waid*, 92 Utah 297, 67 Pac. (2d) 647; and *Konold vs. Rio Grande Western Ry. Co.*, 21 Utah 379, 60 Pac. 1021, cited by Petitioners hold that instructions on a material issue which are inconsistent or contradictory should not be given because it is impossible after the verdict to ascertain which instructions the jury followed or of the influence the erroneous instructions had on their deliberations. There can be no doubt about the correctness of the rule but there can equally be no doubt as to its inapplicability to the instructions complained of in this case.

The instructions given by the trial Court could not possibly have mislead the jury as they correctly stated the law and were neither contradictory nor inconsistent. It is elementary that the law need not be contained in one instruction and that instructions must be read as a whole.

A contention similar to Petitioners' was made in regard to instructions on damages given in the case of *State vs.*

Trimble, 263 S. W. 840, 304 Mo. 533 (Cert. Denied 45 Supreme Court 354, 267 U. S. 598, 60 L. Ed. 806) which was an action under the Federal Employers' Liability Act by a dependent mother to recover damages for the death of her son. The trial Court by Instruction No. 3 told the jury that if they found certain facts required in order to render a verdict for plaintiff, they should assess her damages at such sum as would reasonably compensate her for the loss of pecuniary benefits. Instruction No. 2 directed the jury to make recovery bear the same ratio to full damages as defendant's negligence bore to the full negligence. In holding that the instructions were not contradictory, the Court said:

"Further, instruction 3 does not authorize a verdict. The two instructions taken together define, somewhat awkwardly, but correctly, the duty of the jury. It must first ascertain how much the plaintiff is damaged, and then deduct from the sum found an amount in the proportion that the negligence of the deceased contributed to the death. If the first is not found, there would be no basis whereon to make the deduction. Instruction 3, instead of authorizing a verdict only directs the jury what it must take into consideration in assessing her damages. There can be no complaint that the direction in that respect is not correct. The jury must consider all those elements and assess the damages accordingly. It is a strained construction to say they must then and theré fix the amount of the verdict without considering anything else. One of the meanings of 'assess,' given in Webster and in Bouvier, is 'to value,' 'to fix the value of.' If the words, 'you may ascertain as damages,' were used instead of 'you may assess as damages,' there would be no complaint. If

microscopic inaccuracies like that complained of should work a reversal in every case, no case could be affirmed."

Respondent's position here is supported by *Bucher vs. Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States*, 91 Utah 179, 63 Pac. (2d) 604; *Barlow vs. Salt Lake & U. R. Co.*, 57 Utah 312, 194 Pac. 665; and *Kamer vs. Missouri-Kansas-Texas R. Co.*, 326 Mo. 792, 32 S. W. (2d) 1075.

It is respectfully submitted that the instructions given by the trial Court were not inconsistent or contradictory but when read as a whole contained a correct statement of the law applicable to the issues and that the cases cited by Petitioners on pages 28, 36 and 37 of their Brief are not in point.

It is elementary that error to justify reversal be prejudicial to the rights of appellant or petitioner. *Johnston vs. Jones*, 66 U. S. 209, 17 L. Ed. 117; *Deery vs. Cray*, 72 U. S. 795, 5 Wall 795, 18 L. Ed. 653; *Decatur Bank vs. St. Louis Bank*, 88 U. S. 294, 21 Wall 294, 22 L. Ed. 560. Section 104-14-7, Utah Code Annotated, 1943, provides that only such errors as effect the substantial rights of the parties can be relied upon for a reversal of a judgment. Section 104-39-3, Utah Code Annotated, 1943, provides that no exceptions shall be regarded unless the decision excepted to is material and prejudicial to the substantial rights of the party excepting. If there were any errors in the instructions given in this case, they are not such as effect the substantial rights of the petitioners and hence could not furnish a basis for reversal of the judgment in favor of Respondent. *Ogden Commission Co. vs. Campbell*, 66 Utah 563, 244 P. 1029; *Boyd vs. San Pedro, L. A. & S. L. R. Co.*, 45 Utah 449, 146 P. 282.

Point III.**THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH CORRECTLY HELD AS MATTER OF LAW THAT RESPONDENT WAS NOT GUILTY OF CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE.**

By Petitioners' specification of errors and argument the decision of the Supreme Court of Utah is attacked on the grounds that the Court erred in holding as matter of law that Respondent was not guilty of contributory negligence and that as matter of law Petitioners were guilty of negligence. They address themselves but incidentally to the fundamental question of whether or not they received a fair jury trial in the trial Court. Petitioners have never contended that the issues of negligence and contributory negligence were not submitted to and determined by the jury, nor have they ever asserted or maintained that the evidence was insufficient to support the verdict and judgment.

On this point they content themselves by arguing (1) that by Instructions Nos. 6, 9, and 20, Respondent was absolved from contributory negligence; and (2) that by Instruction No. 6 the jury was told that as a matter of law the two safety rules applied to yard movements and that a violation of the rules was negligence per se.

While Respondent has argued (1) that Instructions 6, 9, and 20 were in all respects proper and correctly stated the law as applied to the facts of this case and that the Rules No. 2057 and 30 under the pleadings and evidence applied to yard movements and that Respondent came within their protection, he now contends and submits that the decision of the Utah Court is not erroneous and that its holdings on the matters of contributory negligence and negligence are correct under the pleadings and facts of this case.

Petitioners base their contention that the Supreme Court of Utah erred in holding that there was no evidence of Respondent's contributory negligence on four grounds. We shall discuss them in the order presented by Petitioners in their Brief.

1. Respondent did not choose an unnecessarily hazardous method of proceeding from the cab of Engine 1182 to the tender.

There is no evidence in the record that the method adopted by Respondent to get to the top of the tender of 1182 was dangerous or unusual or not customary. Respondent testified at R. 76 that he had crossed over the draw-bars between engines coupled on many occasions and that it was common practice to get off and go up that way. There was no evidence to the contrary and no attempt was made to discredit this testimony. In support of their argument, Petitioners rely upon Exhibits 3 (R. 62A), A (R. 34A), and F (R. 74A). From this silent testimony, Petitioners vigorously contend that the way finally selected by Respondent to accomplish his purpose was dangerous, hazardous, and fraught with great difficulties.

These exhibits speak for themselves. It appears from them that there is a foot board on either side of the draw-bar at the rear of the tender of 1182 and that above each foot board is a metal stirrup. That a hand hold extends horizontally across the rear end of the tender some eight inches above the pin lifter. Respondent at the time of his injury was a young, vigorous railroader. He had been railroading since 1929. (R. 17) For him to mount the tender following the course chosen, it was merely necessary to step onto the foot board at the north rear corner, grasp the handhold, above referred to, place left foot in the iron stirrup immediately above the foot board, place right foot and body weight upon the draw bar or beam and take hold of the

ladder with either hand, the ladder being about two feet beyond the draw bar and immediately over the south rail and finally climb up the ladder to the top of the tender. Certainly this does not involve acrobatic skill nor uncommon strength, timing or agility, nor does it involve any difficulties which any man who could qualify for employment as a hostler or hostler's helper could not do with ease. We submit that the extreme difficulties and hazards described by Petitioners in discussing this movement are purely imaginary and do not exist as facts. The Record gives them no support. It is evidently the opinion of Petitioners' counsel that this movement, described as *clammering* over the draw bar, is awkward, clumsy and dangerous, but we doubt that this opinion would find support amongst men whose employment require them to work on and about trains and engines. They were evidently unable to find, amongst their vast number of employees, any who would so testify.

Petitioners suggest a person attempting to cross over the draw bars as Respondent did would be almost certain to fall whether the engines moved or not. From what experience on their part, or from what evidence in the Record, they draw this conclusion we do not know. If such a method of crossing from one side of a train to another or of crossing between engines coupled involves the hazards and difficulties described by Petitioners, it is most remarkable that rules, regulations, or instructions have not been long since adopted forbidding or discouraging employees from doing this. Petitioners made no attempt to prove the existence of any such rules, regulations or instructions and we, therefore, naturally assume that no such rules, regulations or customs exist. In the trial, Petitioners were willing to leave this issue with the jury on Respondent's uncontradicted testimony which appears at R. 75, 76.

Petitioners suggest that the Supreme Court of Utah ignored the preliminary fact that Respondent dismounted from 1182 on the north side and walked back to the rear of the tender before attempting to cross over the draw bar to the ladder. It is difficult to perceive how this fact could be considered as negligence on the part of Respondent in view of the undisputed evidence that he had a free right of choice as to the manner of accomplishing his purpose. (R. 100) It is suggested that there was no reason for Respondent to be on the north side of the engine or at the rear of the north side of the tender. There was a very good reason. It was his duty to mount the tender for the purpose of signalling Colosimo for the next movement. He was in the performance of his duty from the very moment he dismounted from the engine until injured.

Petitioners suggest that there were four safe ways which Respondent could have pursued to accomplish his purpose other than the one he attempted, all of which were safe. This, of course, is but a conclusion based on after-thought and, as pointed out by the Supreme Court of Utah, is not supported by any facts or testimony appearing in the Record.

It is suggested that he could have moved straight back from the cab, climbing up the coal gate of the tender, which is directly back of the gangway, and that this was the most direct and easiest way of reaching his objective. There was no testimony in the Record describing this method, except Colosimo's statement (R. 100) "Some of them crawl up over the gates and get into them". What effort would have been necessary to climb up the coal gate is left to speculation. How the coal gate is constructed, whether or not there are handholds, whether or not there was any particular practice or any particular reason why Respondent should have chosen this method must be determined by guess. Cer-

tainly there is no evidence that Colosimo ever instructed Respondent to use this or any other method or ever intended that he should chose any particular course in getting onto the tender of the 1182.

It is also argued that Respondent could have moved from the cab through the door onto the running board, thence to the top of the boiler, then over the top of the cab to the top of the tender. It would be interesting to know what Petitioners' position would be here if Respondent had pursued this method and the engines had been suddenly placed in motion while he was on top of the engine cab. That he would have been injured or killed under such circumstances is almost a matter of certainty. Since Respondent started from within the cab, this would have been an unusual way to mount the tender, Colosimo stated that this was the usual way only in a case when the hostler's helper was on the running board at the beginning and not when the helper was in the cab at that time. (R. 99, 100) Speaking of this method, Petitioners say that while it was circuitous, it did not involve dismounting from the engine. Wherein Respondent's act in dismounting from the engine contributed in any way to the cause of his injuries does not appear.

It is next suggested that Respondent could have dismounted from the engine on the south side, walked back along the south side of the engine to the ladder, and climbed the ladder to the tender. Petitioners say, "This was not as easy as the first or second methods but it did not involve dismounting from the engine on the wrong side and the crawling over the draw bar." (Br. 15)

What is there in the Record to support the statement that this method *was not as easy* as any other method used or suggested? This likewise is but a speculative assumption.

tion. Petitioners recommend this method because it did not involve dismounting on the *wrong side* of the engine. It seems that no one except Petitioners' counsel has determined which was the wrong and which the right side of the engine. If we are to indulge in speculations not supported by evidence it might be well suggested that Respondent thought it safer to dismount from the engine on the side away from the coal chute. The exhibits relied on by Petitioners show that there was no ladder on the south side of the engine. The ladder was at the rear of the tender and between the engines. So long as the choice was up to him, and so long as he was not in violation of any rule, custom or instruction, and was in the faithful discharge of his duties, a court would not be justified in finding, without benefit of testimony or proof, that Respondent dismounted from the "wrong side" of the engine or that he did wrong in any other way or respect in his efforts to gain a position from which to carry on his work.

The fourth method mentioned by Petitioners was that followed by Respondent.

Finally Petitioners suggest that after reaching the rear of the tender on the north side he had a perfectly safe way of crossing over. This was to mount the step on the north side of the pilot of engine 1149, step up to the pilot deck, take hold of the circular handhold, cross the deck, step down to the footstep on the south side, step across the south footstep at the rear of the tender of 1182 and climb up the ladder at the rear of 1182.

This movement, of course, involved as much difficulty, required as much strength and agility as crossing over the draw bar, but nevertheless Petitioners, because they find support in this suggestion, make it appear that this was a movement which could be made without difficulty or danger.

Granted that he could have done this, it is submitted he would have been placed in exactly the same danger from a sudden movement as he was when upon the rear of the tender of No. 1182.

While there was some testimony with respect to routes one and two, there was no testimony whatsoever with respect to suggested routes three and five. Any of these ways could have been used by Respondent to gain his desired position, but wherein any of them are more safe or less dangerous, awkward, or clumsy than the route taken by him does not appear.

The principal difficulty with Petitioners' argument is that it is based upon false assumptions and from these false premises, they conclude that Respondent adopted a hazardous way when safe ways were available.

Respondent submits that there is no inherent danger in any of the methods suggested by Petitioners nor in the method used by him, that any vigorous workman who could pass the required physical examination for employment as a hostler or hostler's helper could get on top of the tender by using any of the methods without difficulty or danger to himself as long as the locomotives remained still, but that such a person using any of these methods would be placed in grave danger and peril and perhaps grievously injured or killed if the locomotives were suddenly, unexpectedly and without warning placed in motion while he was so engaged. It clearly appears that the danger and hazard here did not result from the method used but was the direct result of the violation of duty on the part of Colosimo.

The case of *Mathews vs. Daly West Mining Company*, 27 Utah 193, 75 Pae. 722, is illustrative of the proposition that the danger here was born of the negligent act in start-

ing the engines and not of the way pursued by Respondent. In that case the Plaintiff was an employee in an ore mill. The superintendent told him that the mill would be shut down for one half hour and for Plaintiff to look the machinery over while it was down. In making this check, the Plaintiff discovered a loose cap. He procured a candle and a wrench and then laid crosswise over the belt in order to tighten the cap. While thus situated, the mill was suddenly and unexpectedly started and the Plaintiff injured. It was contended by the Defendant that the safe method of tightening this cap was to lie down underneath the belt while someone else held a candle and that Plaintiff thus could have tightened the cap without being exposed to danger, even though the mill was placed in operation while the task was being performed. The testimony, however, indicated that the method used by Plaintiff as well as the method suggested by Appellant was safe as long as the mill was not in operation. There was evidence that it was customary to give a warning when the mill was about to start and that no such warning was given. Defendant contended that inasmuch as the Plaintiff knew of each of the methods mentioned and knew that he could have tightened the loose cap with safety by lying prone underneath the belt, he was guilty of contributory negligence. The Court states:

"They rely upon the well-settled rule of law that when the servant knows, or by the exercise of ordinary care can ascertain, that there are both safe and dangerous ways by which he can perform his duties, if he voluntarily chooses to pursue one of the ways that is dangerous, he assumes the natural and ordinary risk incident to the way he has chosen, * * *"

and continuing:

"It is also well settled that the negligence of the master is not among the risks so assumed by the servant.

Therefore when the servant, in the discharge of his duties, is in a position which is, under the conditions which then exist, naturally safe, but is suddenly made dangerous by the negligence of the master, and the injury to the servant is immediately caused thereby, the master is liable."

The Court observed that the position of Plaintiff did not become dangerous until the mill was suddenly and unexpectedly started and in commenting on certain decisions cited by the Defendant therein, including *Fritz vs. the Salt Lake and Ogden Gas and Electric Light Company*, 18 Utah 493, 56 Pac. 90, which is cited by Petitioners stated:

"In neither of these cases was it shown, as in the case at bar, that the position of the servant, which before the accident was safe, was at the time of the injury suddenly made dangerous by the negligent act of the master. It is clear that these cases are not in point."

The cases cited by Petitioners on Page 16 of their Brief have no application here for the reason that Respondent did not choose a dangerous way of performing his duties and for the further reason that the way he chose had no causal connection with the injuries he received. We respectfully submit that there is no evidence showing that the route chosen by Respondent was hazardous or that in making his choice, he violated any duty, custom, rule or instruction. The evidence conclusively establishes that the route chosen by him did not cause or contribute to the cause of the injuries he received.

On this point the Supreme Court of Utah (R. 106) properly found and held:

"There is no testimony tending to show that it was more dangerous to mount the tender in the manner chosen by the plaintiff. Defendants apparently rely

on Exhibit 3 which is a picture of these two engines coupled together. This picture shows the draw bar and other items relating to the hand holds, etc., on the route which the plaintiff chose. However, we cannot from this picture conclude that the manner chosen was highly dangerous and a method not customarily used. The evidence merely shows that there were several ways by which the plaintiff could have gotten on top of the tender. The manner in which he was to get there was left to his own judgment. The record does not show that the way he chose was the most dangerous way."

2. Respondent's choice of ways was not in violation of his duty to be in position to give signals to Colosimo.

Commencing at page 20 of their Brief, Petitioners argue that Respondent violated his duty which required him to be in a proper place to pass signals to Colosimo. Inasmuch as Colosimo moved the engines without signal of any kind from Respondent, it is difficult to understand the virtue of this contention. It was Colosimo's duty to hold the engines still until he received a signal. This he did not do. The movement following the coaling of 1149 was to be made upon signal from Respondent to Colosimo according to the testimony here and of course that signal was to be passed at a time after Respondent reached the top of tender of 1182 and not before. No contention has ever been made that Respondent was slow or that he used an undue amount of time in performance of his duty. No contention is made that it was understood that he was to give the signals from any other position except from the top of the tender. No reasonable contention can be made that there existed any fact or circumstance which justified Colosimo in moving the locomotives without signal, nor that anything which Respondent did or failed to do with reference to the

discharge of his duties in any way justified Colosimo in violating his duty to Respondent.

There is no evidence in this record that it was Respondent's duty to remain in sight to Colosimo. How or in what manner this argument of Petitioners could support the proposition that Respondent not having been on top of the tender to give the signal at the time the engines were placed in motion had any causal connection with the injuries complained of by him does not appear either from Petitioners' argument nor from the Record.

3. There is no evidence that Respondent disregarded the instructions of Colosimo in getting off Engine 1182.

On this point the Supreme Court of Utah (R. 106) stated:

"Nor does the evidence show that Colosimo ordered the plaintiff to stay on Engine 1182. True Colosimo did testify that 'I just told him to stay on 1182. That is what I told him, just to stay on 1182, and I would take care of the 1149'. But it is clear that what he meant by this was merely that plaintiff should confine his work to 1182 and Colosimo would take care of 1149; for in response to the question: 'All you meant by that was that you would take care of 1149 and Bruner would take care of 1182?', Colosimo answered: 'Yes, sir.' This interpretation of this statement is further borne out by the remainder of Colosimo's testimony."

The Supreme Court of Utah properly held that no instruction was ever given by Colosimo to Respondent which required him to remain on 1182 in the sense that he was not to dismount therefrom. There was no occasion for such an instruction and the statement made by Colosimo to Respondent was not understood by Colosimo as containing such a direction and Respondent denied that

any such requirement was ever made of him, and a finding to that effect by the Supreme Court of Utah is certainly not erroneous under the undisputed facts.

4. Respondent failed to inform Colosimo that he was going to cross over the draw bars between engines 1182 and 1149.

Respondent doubts Petitioners' sincerity in making the argument under their Proposition 4. We are wondering whether or not they would still make such contention if Colosimo and Respondent had been working on a long train. Would counsel expect Respondent to walk, say, twenty or thirty or forty car lengths to inform the engineer or the person operating the engine that he was going to cross over the draw bars? Would any principle of law or justice require such notification as a condition precedent to the establishment of Respondent's discharge of duty to exercise due care? The answer seems self-evident. No rule, custom or practice required Respondent to give such a notice and there is no evidence that Colosimo ever expected any such notice.

We submit that the Supreme Court of Utah correctly held and determined that there was no evidence of Respondent's contributory negligence.

Point IV.

THE SUPREME COURT OF UTAH CORRECTLY HELD THAT PETITIONERS WERE NEGLIGENT AS MATTER OF LAW.

In Point II of their argument, Petitioners complain that the trial Court in Instruction No. 6 told the jury that Respondent had the right to presume and act upon the presumption that Colosimo would obey and not violate rules 2057 and 30, that the instruction was erroneous because the rules were inapplicable. The instruction was given in con-

nnection with the pleadings and the evidence offered by the parties.

As heretofore pointed out in detail, the promulgation of the rules and the fact that they were in force at the time of the accident was admitted by Petitioners in their answer. These admissions were unqualified. Respondent and Colosimo, the only employees of the Petitioners who testified with respect to these rules, admitted their familiarity with them. It conclusively appears from evidence in which there is no conflict, that these employees with one exception (the movement made by Colosimo causing Respondent's injuries), fashioned their conduct in the performance of their duty upon these rules and customs which embodied them.

No contention was made in the trial Court by Petitioners that the rules were not applicable to these movements or that they did not govern and pertain to the duties of Respondent and Colosimo. There being no conflict in pleadings or proof on this point the Court was justified in holding as matter of law that the rules applied to yard movements and afforded protection to Respondent. *Union Pacific Ry. Co. vs. McDonald*, 152 U. S. 262, 38 L. Ed. 434, 14 S. Ct. 619; *Baltimore & P. R. Co. vs. Mackey*, 157 U. S. 72, 39 L. Ed. 624, 15 S. Ct. 491; *Choctaw O. & G. R. Co. vs. Holloway*, 191 U. S. 334, 48 L. Ed. 207, 24 S. Ct. 102; and *Brady vs. Southern R. Co.*, 320 U. S. 476, 88 L. Ed. 189, 64 S. Ct. 232.

Petitioners contend that it was possible for the jury to find that Colosimo instructed Respondent to stay on Engine 1182, that it was his duty to obey and that under such circumstances it cannot be said as matter of law that Colosimo owed Respondent the duty to anticipate that he, Respondent, would disobey that order and the failure of Colosimo to so anticipate does not constitute negligence. The proposition thus advanced is entirely moot inasmuch as any question of negligence based on Colosimo's failure to anticipate what Respondent might or might not do was not pleaded by Re-

spondent nor submitted to the jury by the trial Court. In this argument, Petitioners entirely overlook the undisputed fact that the matter of Petitioners' negligence as charged by Respondent was submitted to the jury upon proper instructions and determined by it. Petitioners have never questioned, and so far as we know do not now question, the sufficiency of the evidence to support the jury's finding to the effect that they were negligent as charged.

There are, however, two complete answers to this contention: (1) The record does not disclose that any such order was ever given by Colosimo; and (2) the failure of Colosimo to anticipate the breach of such order even if one had been given, did not in whole or in part cause the injuries sustained by Respondent and was never relied upon by Respondent, his counsel or the Supreme Court of Utah as a ground of negligence in this case.

Colosimo never did order Respondent to stay on Engine 1182 in the sense that he was not to dismount from it. He only told Respondent what to do, not how to do it. Respondent testified (R. 71):

"A. That is correct. He just told me the work that had to be done. He did not tell me how to do it."

Colosimo testified on cross examination (R. 99):

"Q. You never gave Mr. Bruner any instructions as to how he could get in and out of the engine, or what he should do, other than to work with you in this movement?

A. No sir.

Q. You never told Mr. Bruner how he should get down?

A. Down from the gangway onto the other?

Q. You did not tell him to go out of the window,

up on top of the cab, on to the tender; you did not do that at all, did you?

A. No sir.

Q. The fact of the matter is, that was just up to him?

A. Yes, sir."

But let us assume that Colosimo ordered Respondent not to dismount from Engine 1182 at any time. How can this aid the Petitioners on the question of negligence imputed to them by the conduct of their servant Colosimo? The negligence pleaded and relied upon by Respondent, and upon which this action is based, was the failure of Colosimo to give a warning that the engines were to be moved and his failure to hold the engines still until he received a proper signal from Respondent. It was the violation of that duty which gave rise to the cause of action here, it was not the violation of the duty to anticipate what Respondent would do or fail to do. The sudden, unexpected movement of the engines under the circumstances disclosed by the Record, was highly dangerous to Respondent and would have been dangerous to anyone working on or about the engines not expecting or anticipating the movement.

Petitioners complain that Respondent dismounted from Engine 1182 and contend that this was a dangerous act. May we suggest that if Respondent had been off the engine when it started he would not have been injured. His injuries resulted from being on the engine when it was negligently placed in motion. Certainly any instruction given by Colosimo to Respondent requiring him to take care of 1182 while Colosimo did likewise with 1149 would not and should not relieve Colosimo of his duty to give proper warning and to hold said engine still until he received a proper signal from Respondent. This admitted violation of duty on the part of Colosimo was relied upon by Respondent and was

relied upon by the Supreme Court of the State of Utah, and the existence of that duty and its breach by Colosimo is established by evidence not in conflict.

Petitioners suggest that inasmuch as it was Respondent's duty to be in a position to pass signals to Colosimo and that Respondent could not perform that duty while on the north side of the engine, his act in dismounting from the cab of 1182 and walking back to the rear of its tender on the north side thereof preliminary to passing over the draw-bars to the ladder and thence to the top of the tender was in violation of his duty and therefore amounted to negligence on his part, not to be anticipated by Colosimo.

This presents the question as to when and from what position Respondent's duty required him to pass the next signal. As disclosed by the evidence, it was necessary for him to be on the top of the tender of 1182 to pass the signal and to stop the movement of the engines by signal when the tender reached a point beneath the apron at the coal chute. (R. 44, 73) It was never intended that he should perform any of these duties from any other position except the top of the tender. It was never intended that he should pass these signals from the ground, from the cab of 1182, or from the ladder, or from any other position whatsoever except the top and Colosimo knew full well that Respondent was not on the top of the tender when he placed the engines in motion because the top of the tender was in the range of his vision and he knew that he could not see any person, or any lighted lantern thereon. (R. 100)

As the Supreme Court of Utah held, Petitioners' argument on this point is not supported by any evidence in the Record nor by any reasonable inference drawn therefrom.

From the time these engines were moved from the cinder pit up until the time they were placed in motion without

warning or signal by Colosimo, the rules and custom had been followed, the engines had been moved upon signal only and both Respondent and Colosimo had relied and depended upon each other and upon signals and warning. Colosimo, nevertheless, not only placed the engines in motion without a signal from Respondent and without giving any warning whatsoever, but without knowing where or in what position Respondent was at the time. There being no dispute in the evidence, could negligence be any more clearly established?

On this point the Supreme Court of the State of Utah stated (R. 110):

"If the crew member operating an engine were to move it without signal from his co-worker when he knew the latter was engaged about the train at a point where he could not be seen, we might expect yard accidents to multiply greatly. There is also no dispute concerning the fact that Colosimo did not get a signal from his helper, the plaintiff, to back up so that 1182 could be coaled; nor did he give a whistle signal. It is also admitted that this sudden start caused the plaintiff to fall to the tracks. The hostler and his helper customarily moved the trains by signals between themselves. Colosimo started the train without either getting a signal from the plaintiff or giving a whistle or bell signal himself. It was dark and he could not see the plaintiff nor did he know where the plaintiff was. Moving the train under these circumstances was negligence even apart from the safety rules."

This Court in the case of *Tennant vs. Peoria & Pekin Union R. Co.*, supra, has held that such a movement without a warning is clearly dangerous to life and limb. Accord: *C. & O. Ry. vs. Proffitt*, 241 U. S. 462, 60 L. Ed. 1102, 36 S. Ct. 620, wherein the Court stated:

"To subject an employee, without warning, to unusual

dangers in movement incident to the employment is itself an act of negligence."

Petitioners seem to take the position that it was necessary for them to be able to anticipate the precise nature of Respondent's position and danger before they could be held liable for the injuries he received. There need be no such anticipation and the case of *Virginian Ry. Co. vs. Stanton*, 84 Fed. (2d) 133, cited by Petitioners in their brief illustrates this point. In that case the Plaintiff attempted to step out from between two cars when they were unexpectedly put in motion. His right leg caught on a spike or sliver on the rail and his foot was so injured that it was necessary to amputate it. The Court stated:

"The particular accident which happened in this case was doubtless unusual; but liability is not dependent upon a prevision of the precise event. It is sufficient if some injury may be reasonably expected, unless precaution is taken."

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the judgment of the Supreme Court of Utah affirming judgment of the trial Court in favor of respondent should be affirmed.

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SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1944

No. 41

WILSON McCARTHY AND HENRY SWAN, TRUSTEES OF THE
DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,
A CORPORATION, AND THE DENVER & RIO GRANDE
WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY, A CORPORATION,

Petitioners,

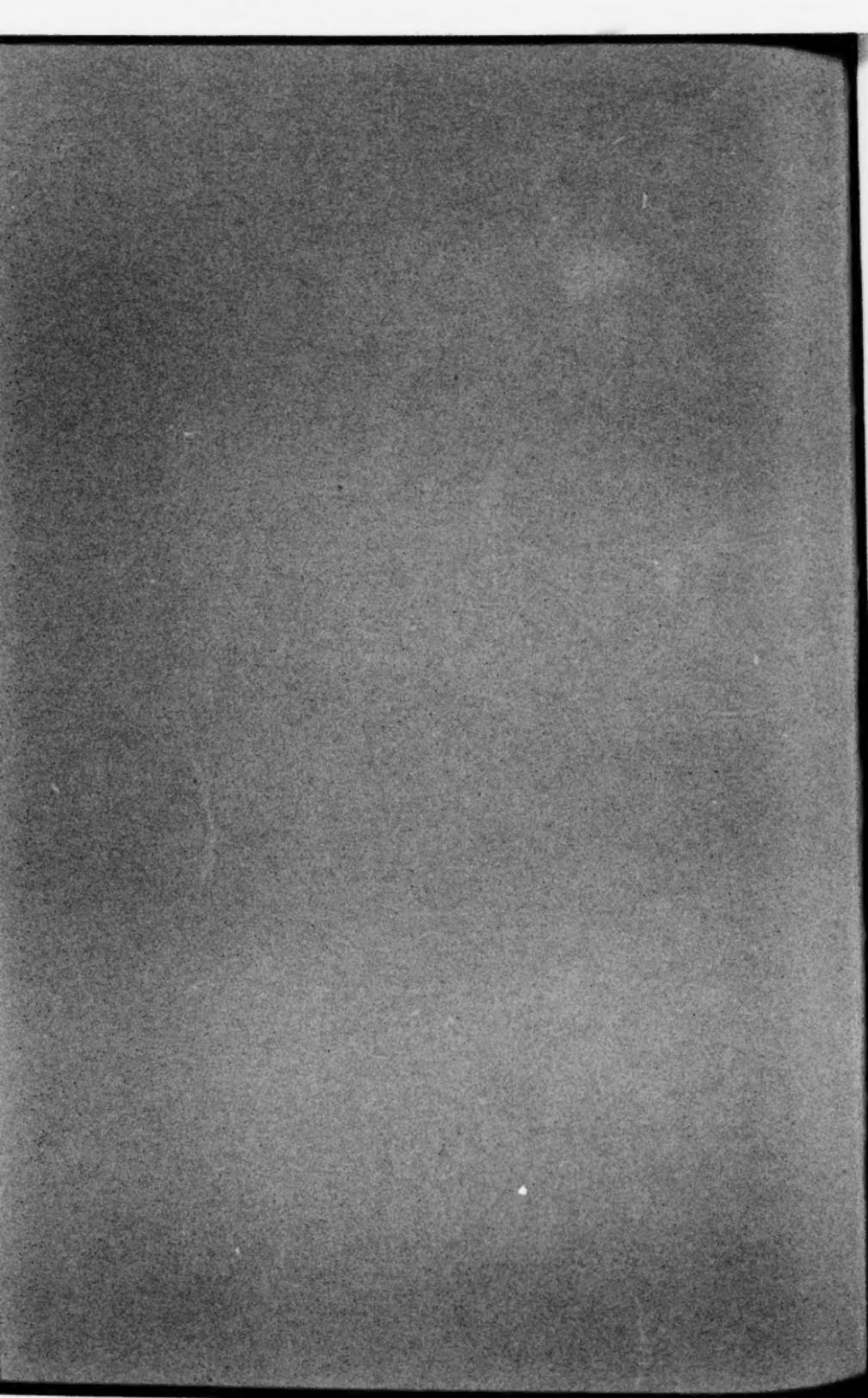
vs.

E. E. BRUNER,

Respondent.

REPLY BRIEF OF PETITIONERS

P. T. FARNSWORTH, JR.,
W. Q. VAN COTT,
Counsel for Petitioners.



INDEX

	Page
REPLY BRIEF ON STATEMENT OF THE CASE.....	1
<i>Bruner, at the time he placed himself in the position of danger, knew that movement of the engines was imminent</i>	1
<i>Bruner's own testimony shows that, prior to the time when he reached a position on the tender where he would be visible, it was his duty to be on the south side of 1182 so that his signals to start and stop the engines could be seen by Colosimo</i>	3
<i>It was not necessarily Bruner's duty to be on top of 1182 at the time the engines were ready to be moved</i>	4
<i>Colosimo did not know that Bruner was not on the tender of 1182 when the engines started</i>	5
<i>The Railroad has always contended that the rules relied on by Bruner were inapplicable; the Supreme Court of Utah said it was doubtful; and there was evidence which would justify a finding that the rules respecting signals had been supplanted by specific instructions by Colosimo and acquiescence therein by Bruner, that Bruner was to stay on engine 1182 until Colosimo had spotted it for coaling</i>	5
<i>The record does not justify the statement that it was the usual, customary and proper way to climb over the wooden beam and cross over the coupler of 1182</i>	8
<i>The record does not show that the Railroad's Requestion for Instruction No. 5 was given</i>	9

INDEX—Continued

Page

REPLY BRIEF ON BRUNER'S POINT I	10
<i>This court will not disregard errors by State Supreme Courts unless convinced that they are harmless</i>	10
<i>It is difficult to see how this court can be convinced that the errors of the Supreme Court of Utah were not prejudicial</i>	10
<i>This Court would usually take the view that Error or Lack of Error in Instructions such as Nos. 6, 9 and 20 are State questions which it will not review</i>	11
REPLY BRIEF ON BRUNER'S POINT II	14
(a) <i>Reply brief regarding Instruction No. 6.....</i>	14
(b) <i>Reply Brief regarding Instructions Nos. 9 and 20</i>	19
REPLY BRIEF ON BRUNER'S POINT III	19
REPLY BRIEF ON BRUNER'S POINT IV	22
CONCLUSION	23
CASES CITED	
<i>Booth v. McLean Contracting Co., 108 Md. 456, 70 Atl. 104</i>	18
<i>Dragan v. Grossman, 116 N. J. L. 182, 182 Atl. 848.....</i>	18
<i>Garrett v. Moore-McCormack Co., 317 U. S. 239, 87 L. Ed. 239, 63 S. Ct. 246</i>	11

INDEX—Continued

	Page
<i>Hummer's Ex'x v. Louisville & N. R. Co.</i> , 128 Ky. 486, 108 S. W. 885	18
<i>Lee v. Central of Georgia Railway Co.</i> , 252 U. S. 109, 64 L. Ed. 482, 40 S. Ct. 254	12
<i>Lehigh Valley R. Co. v. Scanlon</i> , 259 Fed. 141	22
<i>Lisenba v. People of State of California</i> , 314 U. S. 219, 86 L. Ed. 166, 62 S. Ct. 280	11
<i>L. & N. R. R. Co. v. Holloway</i> , 246 U. S. 525, 62 L. Ed. 867, 38 S. Ct. 379	12
<i>Minneapolis & St. Louis R. Co. v. Bombolis</i> , 241 U. S. 211, 60 L. Ed. 961, 36 S. Ct. 595	12
<i>Williamson v. Barrett</i> , 13 Howard 101	21

TEXT BOOK

<i>Thompson Commentaries on the Law of Negligence</i> , Sec. 169	20
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SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1944

No. 41

WILSON McCARTHY AND HENRY SWAN, TRUSTEES OF THE
DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY,
A CORPORATION, AND THE DENVER & RIO GRANDE
WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY, A CORPORATION,

Petitioners,

vs.

E. E. BRUNER,

Respondent.

REPLY BRIEF OF PETITIONERS

All italics are added.

REPLY BRIEF ON STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Bruner, at the time he placed himself in the position of danger, knew that movement of the engines was imminent.

On page 2 of his brief Bruner states that the movement of the engines was unexpected. This is unjustified by the

record. Bruner knew that movement of the engines was imminent. He knew that after Colosimo coaled 1149 he would descend to the cab of 1149 and then move both engines so that 1182 could be spotted at the coal apron. That Bruner did so understand is demonstrated by the fact that he was then in the act of climbing up on to the tender for the purpose of getting to the top of the tender to spot 1182 at the coal chute. The engines had to be moved in order to spot 1182. (R. 3, 33, 34, 51, 55.)

At R. 33 Bruner testified:

Q. You told the jury before you left the cinder pit you knew you were going to take coal on both engines.

A. Yes.

* * * *

Q. Do you recall when the engines stopped there in the vicinity of the coal chute?

A. I figured that he had spotted his engine to take coal. It would be in that vicinity, yes.

At R. 34 Bruner testified:

A. I went to the rear end of the tank. We have a ladder on the rear end of the tank, to get up on. I went to the rear end of the tank of 1182, in order to get up on the tank, to take coal, to spot for coal and to take coal.

At R. 51 Bruner testified:

Q. He talked to you about how you would do it, that you would go to the sand house and you would sand this 1182, and then you would move down to the coal yard, and he would coal 1149, and then they would spot 1182, and you would coal 1182?

A. Yes.

Q. Is that correct?

A. Yes.

At R. 55 Bruner testified:

Q. You say there are two aprons at the coal chute?

A. Yes.

Q. But those aprons are not sufficiently far apart so you can coal two locomotives at once?

A. No.

Q. In other words, you get one locomotive in there, and there is no room for another?

A. That is right, there is no room.

Indeed the complaint so alleges. R. 3 reads in part as follows:

* * * That while coal was being placed in the tender of Engine No. 1149 by the said Colosimo, the plaintiff after checking the water level, steam pressure and fire of said Engine No. 1182, got down from the left hand side of the cab of said engine, went to the rear end of the tender of said engine and proceeded to climb up on the tender of said engine in order to reach a position from which he could by proper signals direct said Colosimo in the movements of said engines, *to the end that the tender of Engine No. 1182 could be spotted under the coal chute.*

Bruner both alleged and testified that movement of the engines was imminent at the very moment that he was climbing over the draw bars between the two engines.

Bruner's own testimony shows that, prior to the time when he reached a position on the tender where he would be visible, it was his duty to be on the south side of 1182 so that his signals to start and stop the engines could be seen by Colosimo.

On page 9 Bruner contends that there is no evidence that he should have stayed on the south side of the engines. Bruner himself testified at R. 28 as follows:

Q. Where would the helper be?

A. *Wherever his work was to be, he would be*

wherever he had to be to give the signals so they would be seen.

It would only be necessary to see signals when starting or stopping engines. In either event Colosimo would be in the engineer's cab. (R. 65, 73.) That is the south side. (R. 65.) Colosimo could see Bruner if Bruner were on the south side. He obviously could not see him if on the north side, unless on top of the tender. But Bruner was not on top of the tender. He dismounted to the ground on the north side of the engine where he could not be seen from the engineer's cab. (R. 73, Appendix A.)

Also Bruner states that he was to start the engines from the top of 1182. This is incorrect. He could start them from any position visible to the engineer's cab. It was only necessary for Bruner to be on top of 1182 when he spotted it. (R. 44.)

It was not necessarily Bruner's duty to be on top of 1182 at the time the engines were ready to be moved.

On page 6 of his brief Bruner says that it was his duty to be on the tender of 1182 when Colosimo *was ready to move*; and that it was Bruner's duty to be on top. The record does not bear out these statements.

It is true that there is evidence that it was Bruner's duty to spot 1182 at the coal chute. (R. 38, 44.) That may mean that Bruner should have been on top of the tender to spot it, but does not necessarily mean that it was Bruner's duty to be on the tender when Colosimo was ready to move. Bruner's evidence at R. 45-46 falls far short of showing that Bruner had to be on top of the tender to give a signal to back the engines. The physical facts demonstrate that he could have

been on the south side of the engines or on the ground to the south of the engines.

Bruner testified that it was his duty to be wherever he had to be to give signals so they would be seen. (R. 28.) But Colosimo, in the engineer's cab of 1149, could have seen Bruner giving signals if Bruner had been on the ground on the south side of 1182.

If Bruner, while on the ground south of the engines or on the south side of the engines, had given a signal to Colosimo to move westerly, he could have climbed to the top of the tender in time to spot 1182 before it reached the coal spout. Bruner would have to climb only a few steps while Colosimo started the engines and moved them an engine length.

Colosimo did not know that Bruner was not on the tender of 1182 when the engines were started.

On page 10, Bruner asserts that Colosimo, at the time he started the engines, knew that Bruner was not on the tender of 1182. This is contrary to the uncontradicted evidence. At R. 100 Colosimo testified that he did not see Bruner from the time Bruner gave him a signal at the sand dome, which was before the engines were moved to the coal chute, until after the accident. Colosimo expressly testified that he did not know where Bruner was, that he did not see Bruner but thought that Bruner was on top of the tender. (R. 100.)

The Railroad has always contended that the rules relied on by Bruner were inapplicable; the Supreme Court of Utah said it was doubtful; and there was evidence which would justify a finding that the rules respecting signals had been supplanted by specific instructions by Colosimo and acquiescence therein by Bruner, that Bruner was to stay on engine 1182 until Colosimo had spotted it for coaling.

On page 3 of his brief Bruner says there was no evidence or contention that the rules with respect to giving signals before starting engines did not apply to the movement of engines at the time of the accident. There has been a contention throughout this case that the rules were inapplicable. Indeed, the Supreme Court of Utah said that there was considerable doubt whether the rules were applicable. (R. 108.)

That statement is also inconsistent with the evidence that Colosimo was the boss (R. 27, 91), that Bruner understood he was to do what Colosimo told him (R. 27), that Colosimo told Bruner to stay on the engine (R. 81, 102), and that Bruner knew that movement of the engines was imminent (R. 3, 33, 34, 51, 55).

The regular way to coal engines was for Bruner, as hostler's helper, to coal both of them. (R. 45, 50.) That would have required Bruner first to spot 1149; then for Bruner to coal 1149; then for Bruner to dismount from the tender of 1149 and ascend to the top of the tender of 1182; then for Colosimo to move both engines westerly until 1182 was in position to receive coal; and then for Bruner to coal 1182. Colosimo ordered that the usual and customary method be departed from and that he would spot and coal 1149 and that Bruner would coal 1182. (R. 31, 45.)

At R. 45 Bruner testified:

Q. *What was the custom and practice where you were coaling two engines, both headed toward the east, where the coal was placed in the west engine first?*

A. Outside of where you make the stop where he did, the hostler's helper would be up there to take the coal, but when he had instructed me not to be there, *naturally I was up on the engine that he had told me to take coal on.* Otherwise, if the helper is to take coal he would be back on that engine to take the coal.

Q. Did you have any instructions with reference to the engine you were to take coal on?

A. He told me I was to take coal on Engine 1182, and he would take coal on Engine 1149, and he instructed me to take coal on 1182.

Colosimo testified in two places that as part of the same instructions, he told Bruner to stay on engine 1182 (R. 41, 102). Great emphasis is laid on the evidence elicited from Colosimo on cross examination that Colosimo meant merely that he would take care of 1149 and Bruner would take care of 1182. (R. 102.) The question asked was double.

Q. (By Mr. Black) All you meant by that was that you would take care of 1149, and Bruner would take care of 1182?

A. Yes sir.

Both parts of the question were true. Both parts could be truthfully answered in the affirmative. A technically minded witness might have analyzed the question and noted the introductory phrase, "All you meant by that." Colosimo didn't do so. Of course, what Colosimo meant was immaterial. Also, what Colosimo said he meant was not binding on the Railroad. The question was what a reasonable man would understand from spoken words. It is submitted that the jury could have found that a reasonable man could understand that Bruner was instructed to stay on 1182 until 1182 was spotted for coaling.

On page 5 of his brief Bruner says that all of Colosimo's evidence with respect to his instructions to stay on 1182 is as set forth on page 5. This is incorrect. At R. 81 appears the following:

A. Yes, I believe so. I told him for him to sand 1182 and stay on her and coal her, and at the same time I would take care of the 1149.

This answer was considerably different from the answer as to which Mr. Black secured the favorable answer at R. 102. The latter read:

A. I just told him to stay on the 1182. That is what I told him, just to stay on the 1182, and I would take care of the 1149.

Colosimo answered the double question by saying that all he meant by that answer at R. 102 was that Colosimo would take care of 1149 and Bruner would take care of 1182, in spite of the fact that such was far from the natural meaning of Colosimo's answer. It is to be noted, however, that the answer at R. 81 contains elements in addition to those contained in the answer at R. 102, to wit: that Colosimo told Bruner to sand 1182 and to coal 1182. Colosimo at R. 81 testified he told Bruner not only to coal 1182 but also to stay on 1182. Certainly the effect of the evidence at R. 81 was not dissipated by the cross examination at R. 102. Indeed Br. Black did not ask Colosimo what he meant by the evidence given at R. 81.

The record does not justify the statement that it was the usual, customary and proper way to climb over the wooden beam and cross over the coupler of 1182.

On page 8 of his brief Bruner states that the usual, customary and proper way to get to the top of the tender of 1182 was to climb on to the wooden beam at the rear of the tender of 1182 and thus cross over the coupler to get to the ladder. At R. 75-76 Bruner did testify that he had had occasion to, that he had done so many times, and that it was common practice. But he was pressed further by his counsel by the question:

"Q. There is no effort at all?"

and answered:

"A. I have had occasion to."

On pages 12-20 of their original brief petitioners have discussed the situation, the various ways of getting from the cab to the top of the tender of 1182, and the fact that the way chosen by Bruner was awkward and dangerous. The physical facts demonstrate this. It seems ridiculous to assert that it was usual, customary and proper. Evidence to that effect by a party in interest should be entitled to little if any weight. Certainly it cannot establish it as matter of law.

On pages 8 and 9 Bruner points to evidence that he could climb to the top of 1182 as he saw fit. True Bruner and Colosimo so testified. Such evidence, however, cannot prevail against the well settled principle of the law of Master and Servant that the servant's choice of ways must be reasonable, not outrageous.

The record does not show that the Railroad's Request for Instruction No. 5 was given.

On page 11 Bruner states that the Railroad's requested Instruction No. 5 was given. The record does not show it. It is true that the request is endorsed "Given." It is true that the Railroad did not except to a refusal to give it. It may, as suggested by Mr. Justice Larson, have been misled by such endorsement. (R. 116.)

At R. 116 Mr. Justice Larson states:

* * * This requested instruction appears in the file, endorsed by the judge as "Given," *but it is not found in form or substance in the charge as read to the jury.* No exception to the failure of the court to give this Request No. 5 was taken, perhaps because when the court endorsed the request as "given," counsel assumed the court had given it.

This shows that such an instruction was not read to the jury. Moreover, it is not in the printed record before this court

although the parties stipulated that the entire charge, except the first paragraph which described the pleadings, be certified up. (R. 137.)

REPLY BRIEF ON BRUNER'S POINT I

This court will not disregard errors by State Supreme Courts unless convinced that they are harmless.

In *Yazoo & M. V. R. Co. v. Mullins*, cited by respondent on page 15, the court said on page 533:

But we cannot say here that the rights of the Railroad were not prejudiced by the error of the Supreme Court of Mississippi. * * * As examination of this record does not convince us that the admitted error was harmless, the judgment of the Supreme Court of Mississippi is reversed.

On page 15 Bruner states that the judgment in the above case was reversed because of clear error in an instruction. As will be noted from the above excerpt it was reversed because the court was not convinced that error by the Supreme Court of the State was not prejudicial.

It is difficult to see how this court can be convinced that the errors of the Supreme Court of Utah were not prejudicial.

If Instructions 6, 9 and 20 were not regarded by the Supreme Court of Utah as prejudicially erroneous, that court could most easily have disposed of the asserted errors by so stating. The fact that it did not thus dispose of the instructions, but chose the more arduous burden of examining the record and reaching a conclusion that Bruner was not guilty of contributory negligence as matter of law and that the defendants were guilty of negligence as matter of law, seems to justify the inference that the Supreme Court of Utah had grave doubts as to the instructions or thought that they were preju-

dicially erroneous. This is particularly true in view of two dissents on the very subject of whether there was evidence of contributory negligence and whether the Railroad was guilty of negligence as matter of law.

If the Supreme Court of Utah has erred in concluding that Bruner was as matter of law not guilty of contributory negligence and that the Railroad was as matter of law guilty of negligence, it has been misled by such errors into refusing to review and hold erroneous Instructions Nos. 6, 9 and 20.

This Court would usually take the view that Error or Lack of Error in Instructions such as Nos. 6, 9 and 20 are State questions which it will not review.

In *Yazoo and M. V. R. Co. v. Mullins* this court on page 533 said:

* * * Whether the case comes from a state court or a federal court, this court will, for the purpose of determining whether the error found may have been prejudicial, examine the whole record; *state questions being left to the decision of the state court in cases coming here from those courts.*

In addition to the Federal Courts there are forty-eight State courts administering the Federal Employers' Liability Act. They all have their statutes, rules and decisions respecting instructions to juries, errors therein, prejudice thereby, exceptions thereto and review thereof. Those rules are applicable not merely to Federal Employers' Liability Act cases. If it clearly appears that the practice in a certain State is such that the rights of a party under the Federal Employers' Liability Act are not protected, this court would review and reverse such practice.

Garrett v. Moore-McCormack Co., 317 U. S. 239,
87 L. Ed. 239, 63 S. Ct. 246

Lisenba v. People of State of California, 314 U. S.
219, 86 L. Ed. 166, 62 S. Ct. 280

If a State Supreme Court approved instructions to a jury which *avowedly* placed the burden of negating contributory negligence on plaintiff or denied to defendants mitigation of damages on account of contributory negligence, this court would be likely to review and reverse. Suppose, however, that an instruction recognizes the correct principles of law but contains an element, which according to the decisions of the Supreme Court of State A constitutes prejudicial error, but according to the decisions of the Supreme Court of State B does not, will this court undertake to harmonize and reconcile such decisions by State Supreme Courts? It would seem an impossible task. It is a problem of judicial administration inherent in the Federal Employers' Liability Act being administered in State courts. Usually the court refuses to review such questions and says they are State questions.

L. & N. R. R. Co. v. Holloway, 246 U. S. 525, 62 L. Ed. 867, 38 S. Ct. 379

This conforms to the general rule that State courts follow their own rules of practice and procedure under the Federal Employers' Liability Act, and that this court does not interest itself unless matters nominally of procedure, are actually matters of substance which affect the Federal right.

Lee v. Central of Georgia Railway Co., 252 U. S. 109, 64 L. Ed. 482, 40 S. Ct. 254

Minneapolis & St. Louis R. Co. v. Bombolis, 241 U. S. 211, 60 L. Ed. 961, 36 S. Ct. 595

And this, no doubt, would be true even though this court might consider that the practice in one State was better calculated properly and justly to administer the act than that of some other State.

→ If a State court recognizes correct principles of law under the Federal Employers' Liability Act but nevertheless instructs

the jury erroneously, the prejudiced party may always urge logically that his rights under the Act have not been protected. Thus in the case at bar, the Railroad contends that although the trial court gave Instruction No. 15 (R. 117) which told the jury that contributory negligence diminished damages proportionately, also gave Instruction No. 6 which was inconsistent with No. 15, and that, under the decisions of the Supreme Court of Utah, that is prejudicial error. If the Supreme Court of Utah had reviewed those errors, and held the errors were non-erroneous or not prejudicially erroneous, we suggest that this court would probably regard that as a state question and decline to review it.

This court, we presume, was willing to review this case, not because of the question of whether or not the instructions were erroneous, but because the Supreme Court of Utah refused to decide whether they were erroneous on the ground that there was no evidence to be submitted to the jury on the issues as to which the instructions under attack were given. Thus the State court held that the Railroad should not be accorded review of its contention that it was not accorded a fair trial of those issues, because it was not entitled to any jury trial of such issues. On page 12 Bruner calls this assertion "extravagant and misleading." It is submitted that it is based on the realities of the situation.

The ruling contended for by Bruner, that this court should avoid the question of whether the State Supreme Court erred in holding that the Railroad was as matter of law negligent and that Bruner was as matter of law not negligent by examining the instructions, would in many cases leave a litigant such as the Railroad in this case without remedy. Its case would fall between a State Court, which refuses to consider whether an instruction is erroneous because it considers that

there is no evidence on a certain issue to be submitted to a jury, and this Court, which regards the question as to whether the instructions under attack are erroneous or prejudicially erroneous as one for the State court.

REPLY BRIEF ON BRUNER'S POINT II

(a) *Reply brief regarding Instruction No. 6.*

There seems to be no substantial difference between the parties as to the meaning of Instruction No. 6. On page 35 of its original brief the Railroad described the effect of the instruction thus:

Instruction No. 6 was clearly erroneous in telling the jury that Bruner could assume and presume and act upon such presumption that the engine would not be moved and that rules and regulations would be observed. To hold that Bruner might thus presume and act would absolve Bruner from the duty of exercising due care for his own protection. *It violates the fundamental rule applied in every variety of negligence case that plaintiff as well as defendant must exercise due care* and is not relieved from that duty merely because it has been disregarded by the other party.

On page 23 of his brief Bruner describes the effect as follows:

* * * The instruction told the jury that, *as matter of law*, Respondent had a right to rely upon obedience to these standards. * * * The instruction merely states that in making the attempt to pass over the couplers and up the ladder to the top of 1182, *it was not necessary for Respondent to take precautionary measures to guard himself from danger* which could arise only as the result of Colosimo's failure to obey the rules, regulations and customs.

On page 23 Bruner contends that decisions from State and Federal courts under the Federal Employers Liability

Act "unanimously support the proposition that employees are entitled to rely upon rules and customs which determine the standard of what they must anticipate in the performance of their duties and that they are entitled to act in reliance thereon."

The cases cited do not support the contention. The first case cited, *Tennant v. Peoria & P. U. Ry. Co.*, decided by this court in January, 1944, is typical of many of the other cases cited and brings out the underlying fallacy of Bruner's contention. In discussing the rule and custom of ringing a bell when an engine is about to move, this court said:

* * * In addition, the evidence relating to the rule and custom of ringing a bell "when an engine is about to move" *warranted a finding that Tennant was entitled to rely* on such a warning under these circumstances. The ultimate inference that Tennant would not have been killed but for the failure to warn him is therefore supportable. The ringing of the bell might well have saved his life. *The jury could thus find* that respondent was liable "for * * * death resulting in whole or in part from the negligence of any of the * * * employees."

This court thus held that the evidence of the rule and custom justified a finding that the employee was entitled to rely on the warning. It did not hold that Tennant could for that reason fail to exercise reasonable care for his own protection. Nor did this court hold that Tennant had the right, as matter of law, to assume and presume and act upon the presumption that a bell would be rung. It did not hold that the trial court could properly instruct the jury that Tennant would not be guilty of contributory negligence in wholly failing to exercise reasonable care for his own protection. On the

contrary this court said that all such circumstances were for the jury. On page 412 the court said:

* * * It is the jury, not the court, which is the fact-finding body. It weighs the contradictory evidence and inferences, judges the credibility of witnesses, receives expert instructions, and draws the ultimate conclusion as to the facts. The very essence of its function is to select from among conflicting inferences and conclusions that which it considers most reasonable.

In the second case cited, *Kurn v. Stanfield*, decided by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in May, 1940, the plaintiff pleaded that there was a rule and custom not to start trains except on proper signal. This was admitted by the railroad. There was no issue to that. A motion for a directed verdict was denied and a verdict for the plaintiff resulted. The railroad contended that the trainman was guilty as a matter of law failing to anticipate that the train would come upon him without warning. The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the employee was not as matter of law bound so to anticipate. On page 473 the court said:

* * * Stanfield had not given the necessary signal which was the condition precedent without which his train should not have proceeded and he was not as a matter of law bound to anticipate that it would come down upon him suddenly and without warning.

And on page 474:

* * * We think the evidence here required the submission to the jury and a verdict in Stanfield's favor was fully justified.

Here again it is to be noted that the court did not hold that the jury should have been instructed as matter of law that the employee would not be guilty of contributory negligence in acting upon the assumption that the rule and custom would be adhered to.

It would unduly prolong this reply brief to analyze in detail the other sixteen cases cited by Bruner for this contention. Suffice it to say that none of them holds that a plaintiff may as matter of law rely wholly on the master to comply with rules and recover regardless of a failure to exercise reasonable care for his own safety.

Many other cases might be added to those cited by Bruner which contain general statements that violations of rules or practices constitute negligence and that one has a right to "assume" that another will not be negligent and "rely" on others being careful. Under the peculiar facts in many cases, courts have held, and correctly held, that plaintiffs had the right to assume that rules, practices, city ordinances or statutes, etc., would not be violated and to act on that assumption. No court has ever announced that law and held it to be applicable where plaintiff has actual knowledge of such violation and voluntarily exposes himself to the peril incident thereto; or where plaintiff had knowledge or notice that such violation *might* occur, of such character as would cause a reasonably prudent man under all of the surrounding facts and circumstances to refrain from exposing himself to danger incident to such possible violation; or where different inferences may be drawn from the evidence as to whether a plaintiff in the exercise of reasonable care should have anticipated the possibility of a rule not being complied with by reason of special circumstances such as Colosimo's instructions to Bruner to stay on the engine. In all such cases it is elementary that it is for the jury and not the trial or appellate court to determine the existence or non-existence of contributory negligence.

There is nothing in the Federal Employers' Liability Act or in any decision of this or any court which changes the settled rule on this subject and takes from the jury the power

and duty of interpreting relevant evidence touching such questions or which permits a court to decide them as matter of law. Nor is there any modification of the ancient rule which requires railroad employees as well as other men to exercise ordinary care for their own safety at all times and under all conditions and that the failure so to do constitutes contributory negligence, regardless of the existence of negligence on the part of the defendant. Indeed, discussion of contributory negligence is pertinent only in the presence of negligence of the defendant. The term "contributory negligence" implies and presupposes the existence of negligence of the defendant.

Booth v. McLean Contracting Co., 108 Md. 456,
70 Atl. 104

Dragan v. Grossman, 116 N. J. L. 182, 182 Atl. 848
Hummer's Ex'x v. Louisville & N. R. Co., 128 Ky.
486, 108 S. W. 885

Bruner disregards this elementary principle in arguing over and over that Bruner's behavior was not contributory negligence; was not dangerous except for Colosimo's carelessness in moving the engines.

On page 24 Bruner calls to the court's attention cases involving assumption of risk in which it is stated this court has recognized the rights of employees of railroads to rely upon fellow employees exercising ordinary care and following customary methods in the performance of their work. Typical of the group of cases cited is *Chicago R. I. & P. Ry. Co. v. Ward*, in which it was held that Ward could not be regarded as having assumed the risk of a fellow employee failing to obey a rule or follow a custom. This, of course, is elementary in the law of assumption of risk. The other cases cited come no closer to supporting the contention of Bruner than does the Ward

case. It is also to be noted that in several of the cases cited in the first paragraph commencing on page 24 of Bruner's brief, statements by courts that plaintiffs could assume that rules and customs would be obeyed were made with relation to the defense of assumption of risk and were based upon the elementary principle that an employee does not assume the risk of violation by a fellow servant of a rule or custom.

(b) *Reply Brief regarding Instructions Nos. 9 and 20.*

On page 29 Bruner relies upon *State v. Trimble*, *Bucher v. Equitable Life Assurance Society* and *Barlow v. S. L. & U. R. Co.*

They merely announce well recognized principles that instructions must be considered as a whole; that portions of the charge may not be picked out for consideration; and that two instructions on the same subject are not erroneous unless contradictory. None of them upholds instructions such as Nos. 9 and 20, which purport to be all inclusive and which emphatically and repeatedly declare that if Bruner was injured as the result of the Railroad's negligence "he would be entitled to receive" damages which would fully compensate him, without any mention therein of deduction for contributory negligence.

REPLY BRIEF ON BRUNER'S POINT III

On page 31 of Bruner's brief the following statement appears:

Petitioners have never contended that the issues of negligence and contributory negligence were not submitted to and determined by the jury.

A substantial portion of the Railroad's brief and Bruner's response thereto is devoted to a discussion of the Railroad's contention that it was not, *as matter of law guilty* of actionable

negligence (negligence which was the proximate cause of the accident), and that Bruner was not, as *matter of law*, free from contributory negligence. Substantial portions of both briefs are devoted to a discussion of the Railroad's contention that the trial court and the Supreme Court of Utah, respectively, committed manifest error in depriving the Railroad of its right to have the jury find the facts under proper instructions and in holding as matter of law, that the Railroad was guilty of actionable negligence and that Bruner was not guilty of contributory negligence.

Bruner's argument on this point is based upon the fundamental fallacy that he cannot be regarded as guilty of contributory negligence because what he did would not have been dangerous except for Colosimo starting the engines without warning. This is fallacious because it is inconsistent with the entire doctrine of contributory negligence which presupposes primary negligence on the part of defendant concurring with contributory negligence on the part of plaintiff both as proximate causes. If either is not negligent or if either negligence is not a proximate cause, there is no room for the doctrine. It would be equally fallacious for the Railroad to argue that Colosimo's acts cannot be regarded as negligent because no damage would have occurred save for Bruner unnecessarily placing himself in a position which would be dangerous if the engines were started. Either contention fails to comprehend the doctrine of contributory negligence.

Thompson Commentaries on the Law of Negligence, Sec. 169 reads as follows:

Contributory negligence, in a sound juridical sense, is the negligence of the plaintiff, or of the person on account of whose death or injury the action is brought, amounting to a want of ordinary care and proximately contributing to bring about the injury. The clear mod-

ern doctrine is that, in order to constitute such negligence as will bar a recovery of damages, these two elements must in every case concur: 1. A want of ordinary care on the part of the plaintiff, or where the action is for damages resulting in death, a want of ordinary care on the part of the person killed; 2. A proximate connection between this want of ordinary care and the injury complained of.

This court as early as 1851 stated the law to be that one person being at fault will not dispense with another's using ordinary care for himself.

Williamson v. Barrett, 13 Howard 101. At page 109 the court said:

* * * A man is not at liberty to cast himself upon an obstruction which has been made by the fault of another, and avail himself of it, if he does not use common and ordinary caution to avoid it. *One person being in fault will not dispense with another's using ordinary care for himself.*

Matthews v. Daly West Mining Co., cited by Bruner on page 37 does not hold either that the employer in that case was guilty of negligence as matter of law or that the employee was as matter of law not guilty of contributory negligence. It merely upheld a jury's verdict in favor of the injured employee and held that motions for non-suit and directed verdict were properly denied. It would be an authority against the Railroad in this case only if the Railroad were contending that Bruner was *guilty of contributory negligence* as matter of law. It sheds no light on whether the Utah Supreme Court committed error in holding that Bruner was as matter of law *not guilty of contributory negligence*.

Throughout his brief Bruner contends that it is perfectly safe to cross over draw bars. But in *Lehigh Valley R. Co. v. Scanlon*, 259 Fed. 141, the Second C. C. A. upheld the District Court in leaving to the jury the question of whether a railroad was negligent in leaving cars in a position such that an employee, whose duty required him to cross that track, was under the necessity of climbing over the draw bars.

REPLY BRIEF ON BRUNER'S POINT IV

On page 43 Bruner states that the Railroad did not contend in the trial court that the rules pleaded were inapplicable. This is entirely incorrect. The Railroad has so contended throughout this case. Moreover, the Supreme Court of Utah said their applicability was doubtful. It is true that the Railroad admitted the existence of the rules but never their applicability.

On page 43 Bruner, in referring to the Railroad's contention that it could not be said as matter of law that Colosimo should have anticipated that Bruner would dismount from the engine and climb over the draw bars, says:

“The proposition is entirely moot inasmuch as any question of negligence based on Colosimo's failure to anticipate what Respondent might or might not do was not pleaded by Respondent nor submitted to the jury by the trial court.”

On page 44 Bruner says in part:

“* * * the failure of Colosimo to anticipate the breach of said order, even if one had been given, did not in whole or in part cause the injuries sustained by Respondent and was never relied upon by Respondent, his counsel or the Supreme Court of Utah as a ground of negligence in this case.”

Also on page 45 Bruner continues to disclose a curious misunderstanding of the Railroad's argument that the failure to guard against conduct not reasonably to be anticipated is not negligence. This argument is made on pages 29-32 of Petitioner's original brief. It is based on well recognized principles of the law of negligence. It is not at all dependent upon whether a plaintiff pleads it or relies on it. If Colosimo told Bruner to stay on 1182 and it was Bruner's duty to obey and Bruner did not tell Colosimo he was going to dismount, then Colosimo need not have anticipated that Bruner would dismount and any failure to guard against that possibility would not constitute negligence. Bruner's pleading cannot add to or detract from the Railroad's reliance on that principle of law.

Tennant v. Peoria & Pekin Union R. Co., relied on by Bruner on page 47, also held that the issues of negligence and causation should have been submitted to the jury. It does not hold that either issue should have been determined as matter of law.

C. & O. Ry. Co. v. Proffit, relied on by Bruner on page 47, merely holds that an employee does not *assume the risk* of being subjected to unusual dangers not normally incident to the employment. The excerpt quoted on pages 47 and 48 was addressed to the defense of assumption of risk.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the judgment of the Supreme Court of Utah should be reversed.

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